Man who exposed himself to minors gets $50K bail. PAGE 2
Palacios on DPL, MOS quarry dispute: I will not intervene. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AFTER TERMINATION OF RT&T CONTRACT

CPA on hunt for new stevedoring operator

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tudela

Following the termination of Rota Terminal and Transfer's contract as Rota's sole stevedoring operator, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is now in the process of naming a new stevedoring operator for Rota.

See CPA on Page 4

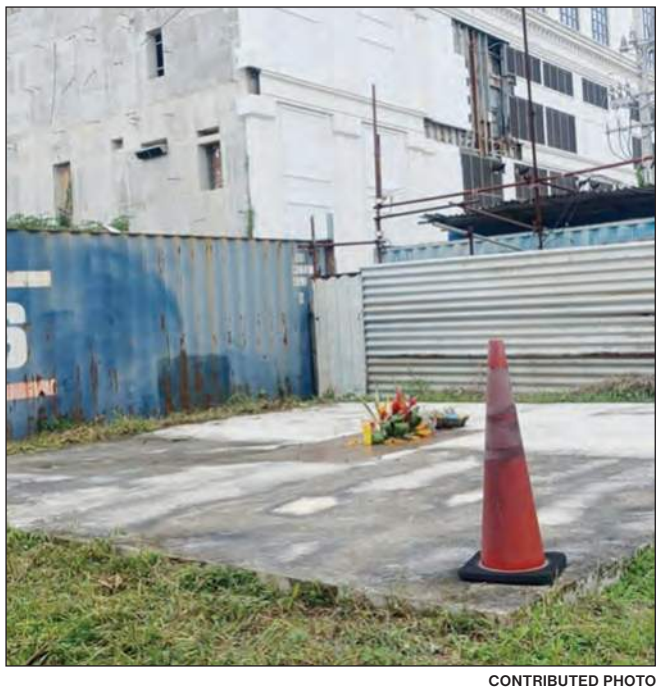
Reburial of ancient Chamorro remains at IPI marks 4th year

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The reburial of 800 ancient Chamorro remains dug during Imperial Pacific Resort's construction in Garapan marked its fourth year last Aug. 20.

Local activist Liana Hofschneider recalled the reburial was rife with controversy

See REBURIAL on Page 4


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The reburial of 800 ancient Chamorro remains marked its fourth anniversary last Aug. 20 at the Imperial Pacific Resort site.

$5 in change among those stolen at Judy's Restaurant & Cafe

DPS
Image from Judy's Restaurant and Café's surveillance camera shows burglars on the premises around 2am and 3am early yesterday morning.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Early yesterday morning, Judy's Restaurant & Café in As Lito became the latest victim of a burglary and theft incident.

According to the Department of Public Safety, when employees arrived at the café around 6:50am, they were met with a scene of disarray with cabinet doors left wide open and the cash register rifled through.

According to DPS, the items stolen included two Samsung tablets, a mere $5 worth of assorted coins, and a cooler filled with assorted drinks. No other items were reported missing.

The Criminal Investigation Bureau is actively seeking assistance from the public to bring those responsible to justice, and as always encourages anyone with information to come forward. Individuals with tips can contact the CIB directly at (670) 664-9042, DPS headquarters at (670) 664-9001, or anonymously through the Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272.

For more information or to report any suspicious activities, residents are urged to stay vigilant and reach out to law enforcement as necessary.

Cannabis tourism reform efforts hit snag

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI administration's efforts to reform the cannabis tourism industry has hit a bump on the road with the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission allegedly opposing to assist Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' contracted representative on the matter, Ambrose Bennett.

Bennett

Last Aug. 15, Oscar M. Babauta Sr., the governor's special assistant for administration, issued a letter to all cannabis tourism industry stakeholders informing them of Palacios' plans to reform the cannabis tourism industry and retained the services of Bennett to lead the initiative.

In a letter to Torres last Monday, Bennett expressed that Cannabis Commission board member Joe Palacios has been doing everything possible to inhibit his efforts

See CANNABIS on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Atkins Kroll has donated a one-year lease of a 2024 Toyota Sienna to Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI. This donation is complemented by Calvo's Insurance, which is providing the vehicle's insurance coverage.
PAGE 9

NATION
Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz accepted his party's nomination for vice president Wednesday night, using his address to thank the packed arena for "bringing the joy" to an election transformed by the elevation of his running mate, Vice President Kamala Harris.
PAGE 13

WORLD
President Joe Biden spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday as the United States presses Israel and Hamas to agree to a "bridging proposal" that could lead to a cease-fire in the war in Gaza.
PAGE 14

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Local

Man who exposed himself to minors gets $50K bail

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Superior Court imposed a $50,000 bail on a man who had been reported to have exposed his private parts to two minors.

Following his arrest, Zacarias Igisomar, also known as Kalle, appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Lillian Tenorio yesterday morning at the Superior Court in Susupe for his bail hearing.

The 49-year-old is facing charges of sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, indecent exposure in the second degree, and disturbing the peace.

During the hearing, Tenorio not only issued the bail price, but also scheduled a preliminary hearing for Igisomar on Aug. 30 at 10am. Igisomar is also set to appear back in court for an arraignment this Sept. 16 at 9am. He was remanded back to the Department of Corrections until his preliminary hearing.

According to court documents, on Aug. 11, 2024 at 7am the minor victim had awakened and noticed her jean romper had been unzipped exposing her chest, and saw Igisomar near her and her younger sister's bed.

Afraid and not knowing what to expect, the victim pretended to be asleep, but when Igisomar approached her younger sister's bed she got up and questioned him. She immediately saw that his zipper was down and his genitals exposed and sticking out. Igisomar presumed to answer her question with "It's nothing..."

The victim later told police that Igisomar proceeded to sit down on the corner of the bed near the younger girl's feet and tried to cover his crotch area with his hand as if he were zipping up his pants.

The victim told Department of Public Safety detectives that the incident wasn't the first time Igisomar had bothered her and her sister and invaded their privacy and making them feel uncomfortable. Following the incidents, she often would stay up all night to ensure her sister was safe. The victim said she never felt

See BAIL on Page 4

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NMI SLDS Program's strong commitment to effective data governance

Through its recent participation in the 2024 Statewide Longitudinal Data System Policies and Process workshop, organized by the SLDS State Support Team, the CNMI SLDS Program demonstrated a strong commitment to effective data governance.

Seventeen of the nation's state SLDS programs came together for this event, which took place in Reston, Virginia on July 6-7. These programs are committed to improving and honing their organization's data management strategies through procedures and policies.

The members of the CNMI P20W Data Governance Committee are Ryan Camacho, senior financial analyst, Department of Finance; Leo Master Jr., data specialist, Northern Marianas Technical Institute; Vilma Reyes, director of institutional effectiveness, Northern Marianas College, and Geri DelaCruz, SLDS data governance manager of the Public School System made up the CNMI representation.

The CNMI P20W Data Governance Program is a newly formed cross agency partnership for effective data governance to effectuate data-driven decision making, accountability and continuous improvement across the CNMI's educational and workforce development landscape. Currently, there are six agencies that have committed to the CNMI P20W partnership: Department of Commerce, Department of Finance, Department of Labor, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, and CNMI Public School System.

The 2024 SLDS Policies & Processes workshop was designed to equip participants with advanced knowledge and practical tools necessary for strengthening data governance frameworks with a focus on policies and processes. With the evolving landscape of data management, the need for comprehensive policies and processes that ensure data quality, security and compliance has never been more critical. This convening provided an opportunity for participants to understand the purpose of data policies and processes and learned techniques on crafting high quality policies for implementation. More importantly, the workshop provided an invaluable platform for participants to engage with other state programs, exchange ideas and discuss solutions to common challenges.

As the team returned to the CNMI, having a renewed sense of purpose and clearer vision, they presented key topics and insights to the CNMI P20W Data Governance Committee as a whole. They shared the knowledge and strategies acquired during this workshop that play a crucial role in guiding the committee to creating high quality data policies, paving the way for a successful data management.

Department of Finance's Ryan Camacho, a member of the CNMI P20W Data Governance Committee, said: "Witnessing the collaborative efforts among state agencies during the SLDS workshop was truly inspiring. Together, through the P20W program, we can drive meaningful change leveraging quantitative data and stakeholder experience to enhance educational, social, and financial outcomes for the CNMI."

For more information about CNMI's participation in the 2024 SLDS Policies and Processes workshop, contact: slds@cnmipss.org

About CNMI SLDS

The CNMI PSS is dedicated to providing quality education and support services to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota students. With a focus on innovation and excellence, CNMI PSS strives to empower students for success in a rapidly evolving world.

The CNMI SLDS Program is a state office that collects and integrates the CNMI's education and workforce data that bridges the gap between information and action so that policymakers, practitioners, and the public can make the best decisions possible.

The CNMI's SLDS program consists of Dr. Annette Pladevega Sablan (project director), Shawna Indalecio (project specialist), Jeaniffer Cubangbang (SLDS Technical manager), Geralyn DelaCruz (Data Governance manager), and Ferdinand Ngirmekur (Data Privacy specialist).

The SLDS is a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Education, state education agency, and other stakeholders, including educators, researchers, and policymakers. The SLDS website is just one of the many tools that the system provides to help education professionals make informed decisions and improve educational outcomes.

To learn more about the Statewide Longitudinal Data System and its new website, visit https://slds.cnmipss.org. ***(PR)***

SLDS

Department of Finance's Ryan Camacho engages in discussion at the 2024 SLDS Policies & Processes workshop in Reston, VA.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Chief Executive Officer
Salary Range: Up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate
Note: The salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant

Opening Date: August 16, 2024
Closing Date: September 15, 2024
Location: 6690 Kagman Road

("This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 22H80CS31624 for Health Center Program. This information, or content and conclusions, are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.")

Position Summary: We are seeking an exceptional leader to join our team as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This pivotal role involves steering the organization towards its strategic vision, ensuring operational excellence, and maintaining financial health. The CEO will oversee a robust team, manage substantial federal funds, and uphold compliance with all regulatory standards. Regular travel to the US and neighboring islands is required.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement the organization's strategic goals in partnership with the Board of Directors. Foster a culture of excellence and community engagement.
- Ensure efficient daily operations, compliance with HRSA guidelines, and adherence to federal, and local CNMI regulations.
- Oversee a $3 million budget, manage program income, and ensure compliance with funding requirements. Pursue additional funding opportunities and maintain financial transparency.
- Collaborate with the CMO to ensure high-quality medical services. Promote patient-centered care and best practices.
- Ensure compliance with laws and regulations, manage risks & oversee internal/external audits for the 340B Drug Program.
- Lead recruitment, development, and retention of a workforce. Foster and inclusive and positive work environment.
- Serve as the primary liaison to the Board of Directors, providing regular updates and supporting governance functions.
- Engage with regional partners & stakeholders, participate in industry conferences, and represent KCHC in the community.

Qualification Requirements:

- **Education:** Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, Business Administration, Public Health, or a related field.
- **Experience:** Minimum of 10 years of progressive leadership experience in healthcare management with at least 5 years in an executive role within an FQHC or similar organization.
- **Skills:** Exceptional leadership, strategic planning, and financial management abilities. Strong understanding of healthcare regulations and compliance. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- **Requirements:** Commitment to the Kagman Isla FQHC's conflict of interest policy. **(Note: Immediate relatives of current employees or board members will not be considered for this position.)**

Benefits Package:

- **Competitive Salary:** Depending on qualifications, up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate.
- **Retirement:** 401(k) plan with company matching.
- **Healthcare:** Medical, Dental & Vision
- **Paid Time-Off:** 4 Weeks Paid Time-Off Annually

How to Apply: Applicants must apply in person at Kagman Community Health Center, 6690, Kagman Road
Note: Full Detailed Job Description Available Upon Request.

P.O. BOX 5723 CHRB, SAIPAN MP 96950 – 6690 KAGMAN ROAD, KAGMAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, KAGMAN III
Tel: (670)256-5240/2/3/7/8 Fax: (670) 256-5244/9 http://kagmanchc.org

mina
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

Request for Proposals (RFP)
for Marine Debris Salvage Project at Laolao Bay-Saipan, CNMI - Issued by the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA)

Project Overview: The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) invites qualified individuals, organizations, and companies to submit proposals for a marine debris salvage project at Laolao Bay on the island of Saipan, CNMI. MINA is dedicated to addressing the critical issue of typhoon-generated marine debris, promoting environmental sustainability, and preserving the natural beauty of the islands.

Project Objectives: The primary objectives of this project are as follows:

1. Effectively salvage all remaining anchoring systems and associated debris of what was formerly the NOAA CREWS station that was deployed in 2011.
2. Prepare salvaged marine debris for removal and transport. (MINA has already procured a contractor for debris removal and transport from the site.)

Scope of Work: The selected contractor will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. Develop a detailed salvage and debris staging plan outlining methodologies, equipment, and personnel requirements.
2. Execute the salvage of the specified marine debris with a strong emphasis on minimizing environmental impact.
3. Ensure strict adherence to all relevant permit conditions both Federal and CNMI as provided by MINA.
4. Provide regular progress updates and a comprehensive final report to MINA.

NOTE For a detailed Scope of Work, please email David Benavente, MINA Project Manager, at dbenavente.mina@gmail.com

Proposal Requirements: Interested parties are requested to submit comprehensive proposals containing the following elements:

1. A brief introduction of the contractor, highlighting relevant experience in marine debris salvage projects and related qualifications.
2. A detailed project plan encompassing approaches, techniques, equipment, and a project timeline for debris salvage.
3. Explanation of safety protocols, environmental safeguards, and mitigation measures to ensure project compliance.
4. A comprehensive budget detailing costs for personnel, equipment, transportation, disposal, and community engagement activities.
5. An overview of previous projects similar in nature, including references from clients or partners.

Submission Deadline and Contact Information: Proposals must be submitted electronically to minaoutreach@gmail.com no later than Monday, 9/23/2024. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered. For inquiries and clarifications, please email David Benavente at dbenavente.mina@gmail.com.

***** NOTE***Interested parties are directed not to contact any employees, sponsors, or Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) officials other than those specifically designated in this RFP. Unauthorized contact may be cause for rejection of proposals at MINA's sole discretion. Additionally, all correspondence must be submitted by email only.**

Evaluation and Selection: Proposals will undergo a thorough evaluation based on the contractor's experience, proposed methodologies, budget, and capability to fulfill the project's objectives. MINA reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal and to award the contract to the most qualified and suitable proponent.

Contractual Information: The chosen contractor must enter into a formal contract with MINA, outlining project terms, payment structure, reporting obligations, and deliverables.

Thank you for your interest and consideration in submitting your proposal and commitment to preserving Saipan's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Roberta Guerrero
Executive Director
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA)
minaoutreach@gmail.com
(670)233 REEF (7333)
8/23/2024

Palacios on DPL, MOS quarry dispute: I will not intervene

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, who has been playing the role of mediator for last month in disputes between different entities, has decided he will not intervene in the ongoing dispute between the Municipality of Saipan and Department of Public Lands regarding quarry materials.

In an interview with Palacios last Monday, he shared that he will not intervene in the dispute between Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho and Department of Public Lands Secretary Teresita Santos over quarry materials.

"I can't continue to be the referee for this. I already told DPL they need to figure out [how] to work with the mayor. This is just an unfortunate distraction that could readily be avoided if we all just act like adults. They have to figure this out. They have to put aside personal animosities," he said.

Previously, Camacho wrote a letter to Palacios requesting intervention in a conflict between his office and DPL.

Camacho, in his letter, raised an ongoing issue regarding the types and quantity of coral base materials that may be extracted from permitted Article XI (CNMI Constitution) lands and given to the CNMI government at no charge.

The types and quantity of coral base materials that may be extracted as a public benefit from a quarry are controlled by the language of the Temporary Occupancy Agreement issued by DPL for that quarry.

According to Camacho, Santos has not honored and enforced the TOA that allows the Municipality of Saipan to secure quarry materials needed for road repairs.

PET OF THE WEEK

Spot

This is Spot and he's currently looking for a family to call his own. This tall brown-eyed boy has been through a lot but is on the mend. Having recently undergone flea and tick medication and taken his dewormer, he should be good as new in no time! He's still a bit nervous and shy at his current place in the Saipan Mayor's Office's Animal Shelter but would benefit from a slow introduction to new dogs, after all, he's just longing to be someone's new best friend.

SHS
Pet of the Week Spot is looking for a furever home.

For inquiries about Spot or other furbabies up for adoption as well as needed veterinary services, reach out to Saipan Humane Society at info@saipanhumanesociety.org or WhatsApp (670) 838-7387.

Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, founder of the Saipan Humane Society and her team, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. ***(PR)***

CPA

From page 1

Last month, the CPA board, by majority vote, terminated RT&T's sole-source stevedoring contract for the company's failure to comply with policies detailed under its contract with CPA to operate at the Port of Rota.

Immediately after RT&T's termination, CPA executive director Leo Tudela got to work seeking out a temporary stevedoring operator on Rota.

In an interview with Tudela, he said CPA has heard from two applicants interested in providing stevedoring services on Rota temporarily.

"The application process ended two days ago so we're going to review that and select a stevedoring operator that will be operating temporarily for a 120-day period," he said.

The CPA executive director said he may be awarding the temporary contract to one of the applicants on Monday.

Tudela shared that naming a temporary stevedoring operator on Rota is part of the process of naming a permanent operator.

"After [this], we will be issuing a public request for bids. We would like to see much better operations and much better rates. We're also forming an advisory board to be part of [this process]. We want to be transparent, and we want to involve the community. We are including the [Rota] Mayor's Office, the Commerce office, and the local community so we can establish something reasonable, acceptable for the people of Rota and CPA," he said.

"We want to expedite this, but we want to do this right. We want to follow CPA rules and regulations while also including the people of Rota. It's complicated and definitely a challenge, but it's nothing we can't overcome," Tudela added.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

REBURIAL

From page 1

that led her not attending the ceremony and she filed a lawsuit instead.

Her lawsuit requested for a proper internment facility wherein a rendition of the proposed internment site was provided. It was intended to protect the sacred site.

"We wanted to give that space a dignified and honorable space for them because they're trading up their sacred site for that casino," she said.

Hofschneider expressed her concerns about the then planned reburial such as doing it at the height of the pandemic, the concrete crypt not being suitable for the remains, and the remains potentially deteriorating due to improper conditions.

"You know it doesn't seem like it's an important issue but it's very important. I saw the concrete crypt and they think that's fine. I don't think so. It's even bad for the remains that they were going to reburied. By now [the remains have] probably become dust because they didn't provide the right kind of environment."

She also demanded the reports of the archaeologists—Marilyn K. Swift and Randy A. Harper of Swift and Harper Archaeological Resource Consulting—to be made public. Swift and Harper claimed that the remains were desecrated which means those who handled them violated the law and need to be held accountable.

Hofschneider also added that the Historic Preservation Office provided the wrong information about Swift and Harper's archaeologist dig.

"There was misinformation because they put Swift and Harper's archaeological number which you can see it says "SP" which is 2001 0762 if you look at that, but [what] your digging was 2015. Why didn't you put the number because there's a new number for scientific consultants digging, in which they said they desecrated."

Providing a good environment in the preservation of the remains is very important, according to Hofschneider, as she shared there were archaeologists who discovered 2,000-year-old remains and DNA testing was conducted by Wright State University and Harvard University.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-019
LEASE OF MIDSIZE TRUCKS AND COMPACT SEDANS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Vendors for the Lease and Delivery of Brand-New Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-24-019, Lease and Delivery of Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 24, 2024.** Late submissions and conditional RFP will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Proposer's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 2, 2024,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vicente Deleon Guerrero, Compliance Administrator via email vicente.deleonguerrero@cucgov.org, and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CANNABIS

From page 1

to carry out his task to reform the cannabis tourism industry.

"He is telling the cannabis people 'Ambrose has a separate contract and you don't have to help him' and now he's virtually telling dispensary owners the same thing. I have constantly been met with opposition to assist me in carrying out your mandate," he said.

Bennett claims that staff of the Cannabis Commission have been informed not to work with him which caused a delay in him getting basic demographic information about the dispensaries.

In addition, Bennett says the Cannabis Commission has limited his ability to work with the commission's staff, and has sent out an email informing dispensary owners that he does not work for the Cannabis Commission.

"This must stop governor, or my efforts will be useless if my authority as your contracted representative for the matter is circumvented by the Cannabis Commission that is being micromanaged by Mr. Palacios. I'm sure you know that it is imperative for the Cannabis Commission to work with me on these reforms and I am asking that you send a memo to the Cannabis Commission to discontinue any and all activity that goes against the work I'm doing to reform the industry and to work with me in providing everything that I ask for including using the office space the chair agreed to but Mr. Palacios is even micromanaging that," he said.

Bennett told Palacios that he will also be rescheduling another meeting with the dispensary owners as they must be organized like the hotel industry if reforms efforts are to come to fruition.

"There are two major players (Hook Up and Saipan Select) who seem to think they don't have to be involved in your reform efforts which is why I am seeking an official letter from you to the Cannabis Commission to set this matter straight that I can share with owners, as the meeting was actually mandatory to try and save the industry, which is why you hired me," he said.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, Babauta stated that the CNMI is in desperate need of a new revenue source and the cannabis industry was initially created to be a revenue source for the CNMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BAIL

From page 2

truly safe around Igisomar and usually feared he would hurt her and her sister.

DPS also conducted interviews with the older sister of the two victims and she shared that she too had experienced inappropriate sexual conduct from Igisomar.

The report goes on to state that when interviewed, Igisomar told officers he had unintentionally exposed himself and had been under the influence of alcohol and does not know how he got into the house. He also claimed that he didn't have any issues with the family and that he doesn't understand why the girls would accuse him of inappropriately touching them.

3 from Saipan make Berea College 2024 dean's list

BEREA, Kentucky—Three students from Saipan—Eun Sung Wang, Lizzie Manabat, and Eun Jun Wang—joined more than 440 Berea College students who were named to the spring 2024 dean's list. A student is named to the dean's list who achieves a GPA of 3.4 or higher while passing at least four total credits, a course load equivalent to 16 semester hours.

Berea, the first interracial and coeducational college in the South, focuses on learning, labor, and service. Supported by Berea's No-Tuition Promise, Berea College admits only academically promising students with limited economic resources, primarily from Appalachia. All students must work 10 hours or more weekly, earning money for books, room and board. The college's motto "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth," speaks to its inclusive character, and the quality of its programs ensures that graduates from Berea go on to distinguish themselves and the college in many fields. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Supported by Berea's No-Tuition Promise, Berea College admits only academically promising students with limited economic resources, primarily from Appalachia.

Arts Council, MVA bring back Thursday Night Street Market

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The iconic Thursday Night Street Market returns on Aug. 29 at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture in collaboration with the Marianas Visitors Authority is re-activating the Thursday Night Street Market on Aug. 29, 2024, from 6pm to 9pm at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Fees are $50 for demonstrating artists and $200 (plus $100 non-refundable security deposit) for food vendors.

There are six food vendor slots and eight arts and crafts slots available for the Thursday Night Street Market.

Applications are available for pick up at the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture office located in Garapan, behind Carolinian Affairs Office starting Aug. 22, 2024 and will be due no later than Aug. 28, 2024 at 4pm.

The Thursday Night Street Market is free to the public and celebrates the rich art and cultural heritage of the Commonwealth. The Thursday Night Street Market puts arts at its finest by featuring a wide selection of artworks from CNMI registered and non-registered artists, traditional or contemporary, using different mediums and offering varied price ranges to suit anyone's taste and budget.

The event also showcases marvelous presentations from local and guests performing groups and musicians, art demonstrations, and an array of delightful food favorites for an enjoyable evening with family and friends.

For more information, visit the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture Office behind the Carolinian Affairs Office, or call (670) 287-1981. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of August 23, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	7/1/2024 RMS-2024-065	Rota Route 103 Improvement Project	Sinapalo, Rota	Major Siting	Public Hearing* 8/21/2024
2.	Pacific Ocean Saipan, LLC.	7/30/2024 SLR-2024-074	Commercial Snorkeling & Freediving	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 8/12/2024
3.	Carolinian Affairs Office (CAO)	7/31/2024 SSm-2024-075	Construction of Seven Beach Pala-Pala Structures	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 8/12/2024
4.	Office of Grants Management (OGM)	8/1/2024 SS-2024-076-A1 (Formerly APC2022-0015)	Construction of PakPak Beach Recreational Park	San Antonio, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved 8/14/2024
5	Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	8/2/2024 SPI-2024-077	Construction of SO2 Workshop Facility	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Application Under Review*
6.	Island Marine Sports, Inc. dba Island Marine Sports	8/8/2024 SLR-2024-078	Commercial Parasailing Activities	All Designated Parasailing Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*
7.	Smart Star, Inc. dba Blue Bay Diving Club	8/12/2024 SLR-2024-079	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 8/14/2024
8.	Luana, Inc. dba Heart of Gold Divers	8/14/2024 SLR-2024-080	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 8/16/2024
9.	GHD, Inc.	8/15/2024 SPIWm-2024-081	Soil Testing/Boring Project	Garapan to Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial, Wetlands & Mangroves	Application Under Review*
10.	Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects	8/15/2024 SSm-2024-082	Soil Testing/Boring Project	Oleai, Saipan	Shoreline	Application Under Review*
11.	GHD, Inc.	8/15/2024 SPIWm-2024-083	Soil Testing/Boring Project	Lowerbase to San Roque, Saipan	Ports & Industrial, Wetlands & Mangroves	Application Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

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TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
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E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MVA encourages Garapan businesses to enhance area

MVA
LJ's Lawncare Service's Dennis Reyes, left, and Jeffrey David help spruce up Beach Road in Garapan, Saipan, on Aug. 14, 2024. The Marianas Visitors Authority—who contracts the company—is encouraging area tenants to help revitalize the area by cleaning and sprucing up the areas in front of their businesses.

MVA
LJ's Lawncare Service's Jeffrey David, left, and Dennis Reyes take a breather from cleaning major streets in Garapan on Aug. 7, 2024, as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's ongoing contribution to enhance the main tourist district. The MVA is encouraging area businesses to clean up their adjacent areas as the Garapan Revitalization Project enters its next phase.

With the Garapan Revitalization Project making headway in Saipan's main tourist district, the Marianas Visitors Authority is inviting area businesses to join its ongoing cleanup efforts in the area.

"With the reopening of Paseo de Marianas to traffic and new landscaping and parking coming up, it's a great time for everyone to start taking pride in their little section of our main tourist district so we can spruce up the area," said MVA Destination Enhancement manager Raquel Aguon. "Whether that be picking up trash, sweeping in front of your businesses, painting storefronts—or for our government partners, handing out citations for littering—it's time to take pride and give our main tourist district some TLC as the Garapan Revitalization Project enters its next phase."

To lend a hand in the area, the MVA has been providing regular street cleaning early in the morning on key streets in the area since before the pandemic, including along Beach Road from American Memorial Park to Garapan Fishing Base, Coral Tree Avenue in front of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Micro Beach Road from Coral Tree Avenue to the fire substation, and others.

"Obviously, street cleaning is not a primary function of the MVA, but it is something we have been helping with for several years, because Garapan has needed it," said Aguon. "With every business, agencies, and individual taking pride and doing their part, it would really help liven up the district, which is what we all agree our destination really needs."

Violations of the Commonwealth anti-litter law should be to reported to the Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality. ***(PR)***

VEHICLE FOR AUCTION:
2020 HONDA CR-V (COLOR: White)
LOW MILEAGE: 17, 392
EXCELLENT CONDITION

Vehicle Features:

EX-L Sport Utility 4D	4-Cyl, Turbo 1.5 Liter
Automatic SUV	All Wheel Drive
Push Button Start	Air Conditioning
Keyless Entry	Light Brown Leather Seats
Power Door Locks	Bluetooth Wireless
Power Tailgate Release	Multi-View Camera

Bids will be closed on
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.
The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties **–Minimum bid is $28,000.00**
All bids must be received by 4:00 P.M.

MINIMUM BID: VEHICLE FOR AUCTION
2018 TOYOTA COROLLA (COLOR: WHITE)
MILEAGE: 61,146
For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859 - (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M
The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties – **Minimum bid is $13,000.00**
All bids must be received by 4:00p.m

Please call to schedule an inspection.
Vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 500730 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Namaste Beautiful, LLC

THE POSITION: Beautician

NO. OF VACANCY: 1

JOB SITE: Unit 1, USL Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

JOB DESCRIPTION: Provide beauty services, such as shampooing, cutting, coloring, and styling hair, and massaging and treating scalp; Apply makeup, dress wigs; Perform hair removal and provide nail and skin care services.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must be at least a High School Graduate.

WORK EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as a Beautician

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive Resume and supporting credentials to:

AMY Q. WEISS
Member
NAMASTE BEAUTIFUL, LLC

Office Address: Unit 1, USL Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: PMB 108, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: aimz20_2000@yahoo.com
Telephone Number: (670) 233-9642
Email Address: aimz20_2000@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: D&W Saipan, Inc. dba Highway Express

THE POSITION: Accountant

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Review, formulate, recommend, and implement accounting policies, systems, and procedures of the company; Provide and interpret fundamental financial data and information to management; Maintain accuracy of general revenue, expenditure ledgers, and subsidiary financial systems; Reconcile financial ledgers and records; Prepare the following financial statements and reports following generally accepted accounting principles and statutory basis: (a) Balance Sheet; (b) Statement of Income and Surplus; (c) Statement of cash flows; and (d) Annual Statements; Prepare general and subsidiary ledgers and supporting schedules; Verify all journals, checks, and account payable vouchers and checks propriety of entries and adequacy of supporting documents; Ensure that postings to the books of accounts are accurate and that the subsidiary ledgers are up to date and periodically reconciled with the general ledger; Research and resolve discrepancies; Review aging of account payables and receivables; Review and audit all account payables, purchase orders, cash receipts, payrolls, utility billings, and other accounting records and transactions; Ensure money is posted to correct accounts and that all account balance; Provide assistance in the development of budgets for various projects and create a variety of spreadsheets, documents, and graphs for that purpose, if necessary; Perform treasury functions, such as matching and timing of fund sources with disbursements and the implementation of budget; Prepare bank reconciliations and related journal entries for a variety of accounts, including, but not limited to, debt and loan servicing; Prepare a variety of monthly, periodic, and annual financial and statistical reports and account summaries; Prepare year-end closings and accompanying financial reports; Maintain records for audit purposes; Maintain and track fixed assets inventory control records for the company; Participate in year-end audits; Compile and prepare supporting schedules, work papers, and financial reports as requested by auditors; Provide responsible assistance to management staff; Provide and interpret fundamental financial data and information to management; Analyze financial transactions and formulas; Interpret and apply applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, and regulations; Maintain efficient and effective financial systems and procedures; Examine and verify financial documents and reports; and Perform other related duties as may be assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy.

WORK EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.

JOB LOCATION: Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and supporting credentials to:

ENOCH SUNG SOO LIM
Corporate Operating Officer
D&W SAIPAN, INC. DBA HIGHWAY EXPRESS
Office Address: Middle Road, Gualo Rai,
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Number: Tel. (670) 234-5201
Email Address: dwsaipan@pticom.com

18 trainees complete NMC's Nursing Assistant Program

NMC

Eighteen trainees from Northern Marianas College's Nursing Assistant Program earned their certificates of completion on Aug. 15, 2024. The nursing assistant program is part of NMC's efforts to build workforce capacity in multiple industries. These students are now eligible to take the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program Competency Examination with the NMI Board of Nursing, leading to certification as a licensed Certified Nursing Assistant.

As part of the Northern Marianas College's continued efforts to enhance the CNMI's healthcare workforce capacity, NMC recently graduated 18 trainees from its Nursing Assistant Program. The college's certificate training has been equipping students to deliver essential nursing care to elderly, ill, and disabled individuals in various healthcare settings, including long-term care, hospitals, clinics, and home health. Upon completion, students become eligible to take the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program Competency Examination with the NMI Board of Nursing, leading to certification as a licensed Certified Nursing Assistant or CNA.

Under the 10-week program, the trainees spent four weeks of lectures with NMC nursing instructors, three weeks in the skills lab, and three weeks in clinicals at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

NMC nursing assistant trainee Vaughn Mallari stated that his decision to enroll in the nursing assistant program stemmed from his drive to be part of NMC's nursing program and acquire early hands-on experience.

"I believe that becoming a certified nursing assistant will help kickstart my career into the medical field while giving me the necessary experience to better understand what it means to become a nurse and take care of patients in a health care setting," Mallari stated.

"The most memorable experience for me so far has got to be the hospital clinicals. It allowed me and my peers to apply what we learned in class to the hospital and the patients. I found it most rewarding whenever the patients thanked us for doing a good job. I felt that it made my efforts to become a nursing assistant much more meaningful and worthwhile."

As part of its continued effort to support the Nursing Assistant Program every year, NMC's Area Health Education Center provides qualified nursing assistant trainees with essential educational resources through its AHEC Scholars Program. This summer, 14 AHEC scholars gained access to the program's textbooks, workbooks, and the course's online learning platform, FACETS. Recognizing the importance of technology, the program also offered a laptop loan program to ensure students had the tools they needed to succeed. Each Scholar will be receiving a

stipend as part of their commitment to completing program requirements and didactic training hours.

To support their academic pursuits, NMC's Area Health Education Center provided 14 qualified nursing assistant trainees with essential educational resources through its AHEC Scholars Program. This included textbooks, workbooks, and access to the course's online learning platform, FACETS. Recognizing the importance of technology, the program also offered a laptop loan program to ensure students had the tools they needed to succeed. Each scholar will be receiving a stipend as part of their commitment to completing program requirements and didactic training hours.

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan extended her congratulatory remarks, "We are so proud of the hard work and dedication these eighteen trainees put into this summer's rigorous training. Their efforts to complete assignments, learn their skills, and apply them to their clinical experience were well worth it and have led them to the completion of this training. We look forward to hearing them take and pass the NNAAP Exam very soon."

NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero congratulated the cohort on the completion of their training, "It's always great to see more students contributing to the healthcare workforce by going under NMC's Nursing Assistant Program. I commend this year's cohort on their completion of the certification program."

For more information on the college's nursing assistant training, email Rosa T. Aldan, Nursing Department chair, at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or Andrew Mendiola, administrative assistant, at andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu/. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-OGM-42400132

SUBMISSION DATE: September 06, 2024 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"Purchase of One (1) Class "E" Vehicle for the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. AT THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND STATE CLEARINGHOUSE, AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp or at (670)322-9994.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70039.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS OF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ Epiphanio E. Cabrera, Jr.
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/s/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Teriong appointed to Palau Community College board of trustees

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Palau Community College board of trustees secretary/treasurer Romana Wong, chair Kione J. Isechal, new trustee Leo Ben Teriong, vice chair Dr. Emais Roberts, and student trustee Weber Santiago (not in photo is Alvina Timarong).

Palau Community College board of trustees welcomed its newest member, Leo Ben Teriong, last Aug. 14.

He was sworn in by the chairman of the board, Kione J. Isechal.

The new board member came about as a result of the term of longtime board member and chair Rev. Billy G. Kuartei that ended in February 2024.

Kuartei opted not to be considered for an additional term as he wanted to step aside and focus on family and other commitments. Teriong took an oath to serve a four-year term and was witnessed by PCC president Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, PCC vice president Jay Olegeriil, BOT vice chair and PCC representative to the board of regents Dr. Emais Roberts, BOT secretary/treasurer Romana Wong, student trustee Weber Santiago, and former student trustees Kobe Moses and O'Keef Kokichi. The PCC students, staff, and faculty welcome Teriong and look forward to his dedicated service with the college. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-008-24-(REPACKAGED)
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"60 MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING AUGUST 16, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "60-MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN-ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES **(IFB-008-24-REPACKAGED)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 20, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

FREDERICK PANGELINAN
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: AUGUST 16, 2024

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-016-24
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 30, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE OF BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JULY 23, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE OF BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION **(IFB-016-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 30, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: 7/23/2024

Church of Jesus Christ builds playground for children with special needs

» Kosrae Special Parent Network expresses appreciation

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Welfare and Self-reliance manager Bill Davis poses with two others in front of the donated new playground with specialized toys.

When special education students arrive for the start of school this year on Kosrae, a new playground will be waiting for them.

Donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as part of its humanitarian program, the new specialized playground toys will greatly increase the ability of teachers to meet the needs of Kosrae's special needs students, particularly those with severe disabilities.

The playground toys are designed specifically for students with special needs. Included in the donation are swings, climbing bars, a mini-climbing wall, a slide, a teeter-totter, a rocking horse, a sandbox, and more.

"This will be a great benefit, not just for our students, but for the community and neighborhood," said Isao Mike, president of Kosrae Special Parent Network. "After school hours the playground will be open so that families from the community can come and enjoy it."

Isao also stated that plans are also in place to provide lighting, a perimeter fence, and appropriate ground covering to assure cleanliness and safety. An eventual overhead shade cover for the playground is also in the planning stages. "I would possibly like to add a small water slide," he added.

Fencing for the playground has already been delivered and is scheduled to be installed by volunteers from the United States Army.

"There will be an opening ceremony to celebrate when everything is in place," said Isao.

Likiaksa Elesha, coordinator of Special Education in Kosrae, described the equipment's value in meeting the needs of the school's severely multi-disabled group in the least restrictive environment.

Of the school district's 127 enrolled special education students, 19 are classified as SMD. Most are also autistic. Special education students receiving services from the Kosrae DOE range from 3 to 21 years of age.

Daily opportunities for play and physical activity are paramount in providing these students with a learning environment in which they can learn and thrive, but resources such as appropriate playground equipment are essential. The donated equipment is designed specifically for the needs and limitations of SMD students.

"Previously, due to limited resources the SMD children were only pulled in for specialized instruction once a week," Elesha explained. "The new playground equipment helps allow us to pull them in on a daily basis so that we can better meet their developmental needs."

Bill Davis, Welfare and Self-reliance manager for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who directs the church's humanitarian efforts in Micronesia, gave his assurances that the church will continue its efforts to serve those in need in the Kosrae community. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new swings, mini-climbing wall, and slide that is part of the specialized playground toys donated by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

More of the specialized playground swings donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

LEASE OF VEHICLES

ITB24-CHCC/ IMMUNIZATION-028

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 2:30PM at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual public participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of July 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. PERMIT REVIEW
  1) CRM Permit No. RMS-2024-065
  Project: ROTA ROUTE 103 & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
  Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
  The Route 103 and Drainage Improvement Project is a 3.5-mile coral road with 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction and 4-foot-wide shoulders on each side of the traffic lanes. The project begins east of Rota Resort and Country Club and ends at the asphalt of the Rota International Airport.
  a. Agencies' Discussions
  b. Agencies' Determination
IV. OTHER MATTERS
V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP24-GOV/OGM-42400138

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ENERGIZING INSULAR COMMUNITIES 30.0 KW SOLAR PV PROJECT OFFICE OF AGING (ROTA)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR.
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Richelle Janelle Cabrera Borja (Name of Mother/Father)] FCD PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0336
E.J.B.T. (Name(s) of Child(ren)) Plaintiffs,] **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
vs.
Eugenio Naputi Tenorio (Name of Mother/ Father) Defendant]

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff whose address is P.O. Box 7317 SVRB, Saipan MP, 95950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 15th day of August, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Business

Atkins Kroll presents one-year vehicle lease to Make-a-Wish

TAMUNING, Guam—Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, marks its 110th anniversary as Guam's oldest corporation by reinforcing its commitment to the community. As part of this milestone, Atkins Kroll has donated a one-year lease of a 2024 Toyota Sienna to Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI. This donation is complemented by Calvo's Insurance, which is providing the vehicle's insurance coverage.

Atkins Kroll's contribution reflects its longstanding dedication to supporting initiatives that enhance the quality-of-life in Guam. This partnership with Make-A-Wish underscores the company's belief in the importance of community engagement and support for organizations that bring hope and joy to those in need.

Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI have been granting wishes to children with critical illnesses in the region for over 35 years. The donation of this vehicle will aid in furthering their mission to deliver life-changing experiences to children and their families.

ATKINS KROLL

From left, Calvo's Insurance Consumer Lines manager Laurie T. Aflague, Calvo's Insurance P&C Underwriting manager Paul D. Calvo, Calvo's Insurance president and CEO Paul A. Calvo, Make-A-Wish board secretary Joephet Alcantara, Make-A-Wish board treasurer Lesley Ann Leon Guerrero, Make-A-Wish board chair Jason Miyashita, Make-A-Wish president/CEO Eric Tydingco, Atkins Kroll Marketing and Communications director Trina Cruz, Atkins Kroll Sales director Tom Mazzei, Atkins Kroll People director Daphne Leon Guerrero, Atkins Kroll head of Service Arnold Sikat, and Atkins Kroll Business Development director Ernie Galito.

About Atkins Kroll, Inc.
Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, Avis, Budget and Payless Rental Car, and AC Delco brands. In December 2021 Atkins Kroll acquired Morrico Equipment, one of Guam's largest heavy equipment dealerships representing Freightliner, Hyundai Construction Equipment, Kohler Power Systems, Rosenbauer Fire Trucks and Thomas Built School Buses. Morrico Equipment operates new and used heavy equipment sales, rental, parts, diesel fuel delivery, Trashco Guam, and specialized diesel repair service to Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. ***(PR)***

California announces new deal with tech to fund journalism, AI research

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California will be the first U.S. state to direct millions of dollars from taxpayer money and tech companies to help pay for journalism and AI research under a new deal announced Wednesday.

Under the first-in-the-nation agreement, the state and tech companies would collectively pay roughly $250 million over five years to support California-based news organization and create an AI research program. The initiatives are set to kick in in 2025 with $100 million the first year, and the majority of the money would go to news organizations, said Democratic Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, who brokered the deal.

"This agreement represents a major breakthrough in ensuring the survival of newsrooms and bolstering local journalism across California—leveraging substantial tech industry resources without imposing new taxes on Californians," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement. "The deal not only provides funding to support hundreds of new journalists but helps rebuild a robust and dynamic California press corps for years to come, reinforcing the vital role of journalism in our democracy."

Wicks' office didn't immediately answer questions about specifics on how much funding would come from the state, which news organizations would be eligible and how much money would go to the AI research program.

The deal effectively marks the end of a yearlong fight between tech giants and lawmakers over Wicks' proposal to require companies like Google, Facebook and Microsoft to pay a certain percentage of advertising revenue to media companies for linking to their content.

The bill, modelled after a legislation in Canada aiming at providing financial help to local news organizations, faced intense backlash from the tech industry, which launched ads over the summer to attack the bill. Google also tried to pressure lawmakers to drop the bill by temporarily removing news websites from some people's search results in April.

"This partnership represents a cross-sector commitment to supporting a free and vibrant press, empowering local news outlets up and down the state to continue in their essential work," Wicks said in a statement. "This is just the beginning."

California has tried different ways to stop the loss of journalism jobs, which have been disappearing rapidly as legacy media companies have struggled to profit in the digital age. More than 2,500 newspapers have closed in the U.S. since 2005, according to Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. California has lost more than 100 news organizations in the past decade, according to Wicks' office.

The Wednesday agreement is supported by California News Publishers Association, which represents more than 700 news organizations, Google's corporate parent Alphabet and OpenAI. But journalists, including those in Media Guild of the West, slammed the deal and said it would hurt California news organizations.

State Sen. Steve Glazer, who authored a bill to provide news organizations a tax credit for hiring full-time journalists, said the agreement "seriously undercuts our work toward a long term solution to rescue independent journalism."

US colleges cutting majors, slashing programs after years of putting it off

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
Associated Press

Christina Westman dreamed of working with Parkinson's disease and stroke patients as a music therapist when she started studying at St. Cloud State University.

But her schooling was upended in May when administrators at the Minnesota college announced a plan to eliminate its music department as it slashes 42 degree programs and 50 minors.

It's part of a wave of program cuts in recent months, as U.S. colleges large and small try to make ends meet. Among their budget challenges: Federal COVID relief money is now gone, operational costs are rising and fewer high school graduates are going straight to college.

The cuts mean more than just savings, or even job losses. Often, they create turmoil for students who chose a campus because of certain degree programs and then wrote checks or signed up for student loans.

"For me, it's really been anxiety-ridden," said Westman, 23, as she began the effort that ultimately led her to transfer to Augsburg University in Minneapolis. "It's just the fear of the unknown."

At St. Cloud State, most students will be able to finish their degrees before cuts kick in, but Westman's music therapy major was a new one that hadn't officially started. She has spent the past three months in a mad dash to find work in a new city and sublet her apartment in St. Cloud after she had already signed a lease. She was moving into her new apartment Friday.

For years, many colleges held off making cuts, said Larry Lee, who was acting president of St. Cloud State but left last month to lead Blackburn College in Illinois.

College enrollment declined during the pandemic, but officials hoped the figures would recover to pre-COVID levels and had used federal relief money to prop up their budgets in the meantime, he said.

"They were holding on, holding on," Lee said, noting colleges must now face their new reality.

Higher education made up some ground last fall and in the spring semester, largely as community college enrollment began to rebound, National Student Clearinghouse Research Center data showed.

But the trend for four-year colleges remains worrisome. Even without growing concerns about the cost of college and the long-term burden of student debt, the pool of young adults is shrinking.

Birth rates fell during the Great Recession of 2007 to 2009 and never recovered. Now those smaller classes are preparing to graduate and head off to college.

"It's very difficult math to overcome," said Patrick Lane, vice president at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, a leading authority on student demographics.

Complicating the situation: the federal government's chaotic overhaul of its financial aid application. Millions of students entered summer break still wondering where they were going to college this fall and how they would pay for it. With jobs still plentiful, although not as much as last year, some experts fear students won't bother to enroll at all.

"This year going into next fall, it's going to be bad," said Katharine Meyer, a fellow in the Governance Studies program for the Brown Center on Education Policy at the nonprofit Brookings Institution. "I think a lot of colleges are really concerned they're not going to make their enrollment targets."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Democrats have the narrative. But look at what Republicans have ceded

Everyone is talking about the Democratic National Convention, which got underway Monday in Chicago, but our minds turned Monday to what we saw, or rather what we did not see, at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee last month.

No former president. No former vice presidents. Very few party grandees of any kind, whether governors or former top Republican officials. No sense of tradition, beyond a two-bit video homage to Ronald Reagan, making ample use of the public domain.

Little to remind folks that, yes, politics are about the future, and, yes, the Republicans have morphed into a predominantly working-class party unrecognizable from 30 years ago, but great leaders are invariably students of the past.

This is what Donald Trump has wrought on the Grand Old Party; he has obliterated its history in favor of his own cult of personality.

On the surface, the Republicans' Milwaukee shindig felt like a successful convention. The mood was buoyant on the floor as most delegates clearly believed victory was in the air following President Joe Biden's disastrous and Democrat-disillusioning debate debacle. Their nominee, Trump, had survived an assassination attempt and had both the courage and the presence of mind to pump his fists defiantly in the air; his reward was a pervasive feeling at the Fiserv Forum that Trump was a protector of the disenfranchised, that he would stand, in the words of Linda McMahon of World Wrestling Entertainment fame, at the very "gates of hell" to hold back what many Republicans see as a collection of malevolent forces changing the nature of the nation they love.

But then, on the convention's final note, Trump failed to exploit his moment, rambled on for more than 90 minutes and pricked the air out of every balloon in Milwaukee. His supporters are a loyal crowd, aware of Trump's imperfections, and they tolerate most anything. But when a convention has no connection to anything beyond one man, the final moment of that Thursday night in Milwaukee was not so much a confirmation of prior success as a precursor of the collapse that has occurred since Biden made way for Kamala Harris and Trump began to flail.

Trump's show in Wisconsin was reliant entirely on its star with no understudy present backstage. Always, but always, an ill-considered move. And not a mistake the Democrats are about to make. Their entire convention is dedicated to insisting otherwise, and they already showed us they could change their top billing on a dime.

Here is just part of what the Democrats planned for Chicago: a tribute to Jesse Jackson, once a growling lion of the party, now aged; an homage to the ailing Jimmy Carter from his loving grandson; two former presidents; a figure who was

See DEMOCRATS on Page 11

IT'S BEEN REPORTED THAT IRAN IS ONE OR TWO WEEKS AWAY FROM HAVING ENOUGH MATERIALS TO MAKE A NUCLEAR BOMB...
MANUAL
REST ASSURED THE BIDEN/HARRIS ADMINISTRATION IS ON TOP OF THINGS.
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Facing a cost-of-living crisis? You're not alone

By E.J. ANTONI
The Heritage Foundation

E.J. Antoni is a public finance economist and the Richard F. Aster fellow at the Heritage Foundation, and a senior fellow at Unleash Prosperity.

Americans are facing a cost-of-living crisis. A family of four in the five most expensive U.S. states needs an annual income of $270,000 to live comfortably—nearly four times the median household income. Folks are falling hopelessly behind. Why?

In a nutshell: failed public policy. For the last four years, the federal government has been on a spending spree that would make even a drunken sailor blush. Despite tax revenues shattering records in the last several years, the federal deficit and debt have exploded by unprecedented amounts outside of a national emergency, like war or severe recession.

The culprit here is government spending—and lots of it.

Upon taking office, the Biden-Harris administration immediately began pushing their big-spending legislation through Congress. Vice President Kamala Harris was the tie-breaking vote in the Senate for two of the three largest spending bills, and she publicly supported every other spending bill too.

The resultant multi-trillion-dollar deficits were financed primarily by the Federal Reserve creating money out of thin air. But where did the value come from that was behind all the newly created cash? It was siphoned off from some of the value of all the dollars that already existed, in every wallet, savings account and paycheck.

As that freshly minted money sloshed through the economy, prices began to rise, not because things were more valuable, but because the dollar had lost value, and it took more dollars to buy the same thing as before.

It's like shrinking a yardstick from 36 inches to just 30 inches. It then takes 120 yards to cover a football field between end zones, instead of just 100 yards. The field isn't longer, but the yardstick has shrunk.

This is the phenomenon we call inflation, and it has cost American households dearly over the past three and a half years. Prices have risen so much faster than earnings under the Biden-Harris administration that the typical American family has lost about $4,300 in annual purchasing power.

Unfortunately, the higher costs don't stop there. The Biden-Harris administration has also imposed severe costs through burdensome regulation, and official inflation metrics don't capture these regulatory costs.

That's one reason why people are so down on the economy. It's also why they're so vocal about today's higher prices, which have risen much faster than indicated by government tools like the Consumer Price Index. One study found that the Biden-Harris administration has added almost $5,000 per year, per household in regulatory costs, which is a burden above and beyond the losses from inflation.

But the same runaway government spending and borrowing that created 40-year-high inflation also pushed up interest rates on everything from auto loans to student loans. Mortgage interest rates have tripled since January 2021. Credit-card interest rates set new records.

For countless Americans, this has meant more financial pain. Unable to make it from paycheck to paycheck, families have relied on credit cards to make ends meet, racking up a record $1.14 trillion in outstanding balances. The lethal combination of record high debt and interest rates has resulting in Americans paying over $300 billion annually in credit-card finance charges for the first time ever.

The typical American family is now paying $3,600 more in annual interest payments across all kinds of debt as compared to January 2021.

For the first time since the Great Depression, a generation of Americans will likely have a lower standard of living than their parents enjoyed. The American dream of homeownership, raising children, and eventually enjoying retirement has become the exclusive purview of the wealthy.

The sad reality is that far-left policies in Washington, D.C., have made it almost impossible for families to get by, even with both parents working. The fallout isn't just financial—today's stratospheric cost of living is even causing young people to delay having kids.

If Americans want life to become affordable again, we must reverse the big-spending policies that created this mess in the first place.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Biden shows what it means to make America great—and why Democrats are glad to bid him farewell

By ANITA CHABRIA AND MARK Z. BARABAK

CHICAGO—The Democratic National Convention started off with hope, hype and smaller protests than some feared and a surprise appearance from Kamala Harris, looking very demure, very mindful.

(That's a TikTok thing, if you don't know.)

The snark level, meantime, was sky-high as cheeky partisans projected onto Trump Tower—which loomed over downtown like a middle finger extended at Democrats—a set of taunting slogans along the lines of: " Trump-Vance 'Weird As Hell.' "

That's trolling on a 92-story scale.

There were a great many speeches and a great number of entertainers, representing Democratic constituencies from Hollywood to Nashville. (Yes, there are still some Southern Democrats.)

But, of course, Monday night belonged to Joe Biden, the president who reluctantly walked away from his reelection campaign and showed up just long enough to endorse Harris before making his poignant exit—long after much of the country had gone to bed.

Columnists Mark Z. Barabak and Anita Chabria laid off the deep-dish pizza so they could devote all their energies to the convention and came away with these thoughts:

Barabak: He came, he spoke and he showed why Democrats were glad to bid their party leader a heartfelt—but nevertheless relieved—farewell.

Biden has never been a great orator. His strength was knowing how to work the levers in Washington, and for just about 45 minutes Monday night the president outlined all he'd managed to accomplish in his lone term.

Simply stated, he said: "We're building a better America."

Biden, too, was mindful, making a point of wrapping Harris in the mantle of his successes. (And the last three and a half years have been filled with nothing but an unbroken series of triumphs, to hear the president tell it, but, hey, it's a convention speech.)

After he cited legislation bringing down the costs of some prescription drugs, the crowd chanted, "Thank you, Joe!"

"Thank you, Kamala, too!" he interjected.

The emotions were genuine.

Biden was greeted with a lusty ovation lasting more than 4½ minutes, by far the longest of the night. He pulled a white hanky from his breast pocket and dabbed away a tear after a prolonged embrace from his daughter, Ashley, who delivered a loving introduction.

It was moving to hear Biden discuss the long arc of his career—from too young to serve in the Senate (he was 29 when first elected and turned the required age of 30 shortly before being sworn in) to being too old to serve another term as president, as he finally acknowledged.

It was also a reminder of why Democrats collectively looked to November's election with heart-in-their-throats anxiety—and that was even before Biden's crashingly awful debate performance.

On Monday night he appeared every bit his 81 years. He was stiff, occasionally stumbling over his words. His waxen face was frozen in a perpetual scowl. He shouted out his words, not at all the joyful warrior of Harris-Walz fashion, but more like a cranky old man shooing kids off his lawn.

The contrast with Harris, who bounded onstage afterward to embrace Biden and join him in the traditional arms-raised tableau, couldn't have been more stark.

There was speculation that convention programmers purposely pushed the president's appearance out of television's prime time on the East Coast and, by the time he finished, in the Central time zone. Of course, they denied it; the program ran long because speakers were just so darned popular, people wouldn't stop cheering and clapping, party officials said.

What did you think about Biden's speech?

Chabria: The emotions were genuine, as you say, but I think they were also complex.

Nancy Pelosi had tears in her eyes, though many claim she was a key architect of Biden's exit. When Harris went onstage she told Biden—not for the cameras—that she loved him.

Ashley Biden brought up the spirit of her departed brother, Beau, and at the end, Biden walked offstage with a young grandson, named in that son's honor.

When the crowd chanted "Thank you, Joe," Biden seemed resigned, but also a bit defiant with the long list of accomplishments he touted—reminding us how much he's done that seems forgotten in the scrum of the election.

Until a few weeks ago, this was a proud and stubborn man who believed not only that he was the best person for the presidency, but believed we thought so, too. So Monday night—as much as it was billed as a gratitude-driven sendoff—was also a forced retirement for a guy who does know more about government and governance than half of Congress combined.

My takeaway is that for all his flaws, and we all have them, this is a man of duty and honor.

Biden quoted a line from the song "American Anthem" to sum up why he made the choice to step away from power: "What shall our legacy be, what will our children say? Let me know in my heart when my days are through, America, America, I gave my best to you," he said.

And there's no doubt he gave his best, for decades.

But, as Hillary Clinton said in an earlier speech, change is afoot. And that change doesn't include Biden.

Barabak: It was a forward-looking Clinton appearance, yes. But the might-have-been vibe was strong when the former first lady and secretary of State took the stage.

The ovation lasted nearly a minute and a half, as Clinton repeatedly started and stopped over the prolonged clapping and cheers.

She acknowledged the outgoing incumbent—"first, let's salute President Biden"—then dwelled at length on the history-making nature of Harris' candidacy.

"Something is happening in America," said Clinton, who was the first woman to win a major party's presidential nomination. "Something we've waited for and dreamed of for a long time."

More than 66 million Americans voted for her in 2016, Clinton noted, poking more than 66 million small holes in the glass ceiling that's kept a woman from the Oval Office.

She then tore with relish into the man who beat her—not in the popular vote but narrowly in the electoral college.

"Kamala Harris"—a former district attorney and California's attorney general—"prosecuted murderers and drug traffickers. Donald Trump fell asleep at his own trial," Clinton gibed. "And when he woke up, he made his own kind of history" as the first ex-president convicted of a felony.

"Lock him up!" the crowd chanted, and Clinton smiled.

Anita, you were taken with one of the non-celebrity speakers, weren't you?

Chabria: I really felt what April Varrett said, and what she represented.

Varrett, the first Black woman to lead the Service Employees International Union, came out of California as the former head of SEIU Local 2015, the state's largest local union representing long-term care workers.

Its rank-and-file consists of many Black and brown women, a number of whom are immigrants struggling with poverty in an industry as necessary as it is underfunded. Varrett promised to create a labor movement that is "younger, darker, hipper, fresher, sneaker-wearing."

That is a powerful vision that is already happening in both labor and politics. I think in a little-noticed way, this convention is all about immigration and communities of color—the immigrants who fuel our economy, fight for their communities and now are claiming political power in a way that terrifies conservatives to the point they demonize them.

Comparing the crowd at the Republican National Convention to the one in Chicago is startling. It really feels like two different Americas, and a crossroads election where we decide which one we believe in.

I was also struck by the everyday Americans who spoke about abortion access. Hadley Duvall, a Kentuckian who was raped and impregnated by her stepfather when she was 12, floored the room with a single question.

Trump calls abortion bans a "beautiful thing," she said. "What is so beautiful about a child having to carry her parent's child?"

What else stood out to you?

Barabak: How several of the night's speakers, in addition to Clinton, leaned into the historic nature of Harris' nomination as the first Black woman and first Asian American to lead a major party presidential ticket.

That was a major theme in 2020, when Harris first ran for president, and it seemed at times that campaign was more about her hopes of making history than what voters had on their minds.

But there's no denying the precedent-shattering nature of Harris' nomination, and it was celebrated with the right amount of balance and perspective.

The vice president was placed in a long line of pioneering women who helped tear down race and gender barriers, among them Diane Nash, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Coretta Scott King and Shirley Chisholm.

"We must all understand that Black history is American history," said Derrick Johnson, president of the NAACP. "And in this historic moment, we will write the next chapter together."

That remains to be seen, depending on what happens in November. But there is no doubt the moment inscribed in Chicago stands apart from all that have preceded.

DEMOCRATS

From page 10

both first lady and secretary of state, flaws notwithstanding.

There will be many others before Thursday night is done, all demonstrating the strength of the bullpen and sure to say much the same thing we heard Monday, which is that Vice President Harris is the heir to a tradition, a gestalt, a history. She represents the party's future, they'll say. But their very presence says she does so in the context of the party's past.

Such foregrounding of the party has its dangers, of course, in a nation supposed to be dedicated to free thinking. But humans also like to feel part of something bigger than themselves. Swing voters do, too. This is the potentially fatal weakness of Trump's scorched-earth campaign.

Democrats, anxious to move past the intraparty coup that axed Biden, for whom Democrats had voted in the primaries, and installed the mostly unknown and hitherto unpopular Harris, know very well that the best way to do that this week is to summon their inner E.L. Doctorow and emphasize the inevitable march of history. And that means showing people the past as well as lauding the future.

Hence Biden's role in Monday night's planned ceremonial passing of the baton. Everyone knows that his apparent willingness to do so was foisted upon him. Yet most entering the United Center Monday afternoon were willing to engage in a bit of Orwellian doublethink and not just pretend but actually believe that this was all a righteous generational transition and any blood in the water merely was a red speck in the eye of the beholder.

Why? Because the Democrats understood they had to put that brutal event in a comforting historical context before Biden exited, stage west.

It's true, of course, that Trump's personal level of support is strong enough to command 45% or maybe a little more of the popular vote, a good portion of which is more about disdain for what Democrats represent than affection for the alternative.

But as they sat in front of their TV screens Monday, or mounted the counterprogramming at Trump Tower, smart Republicans surely were looking enviously at the Democrats' Chicago schedule and wondering where they would be now if Trump were not a narcissist incapable of acknowledging the ground on which he stands.

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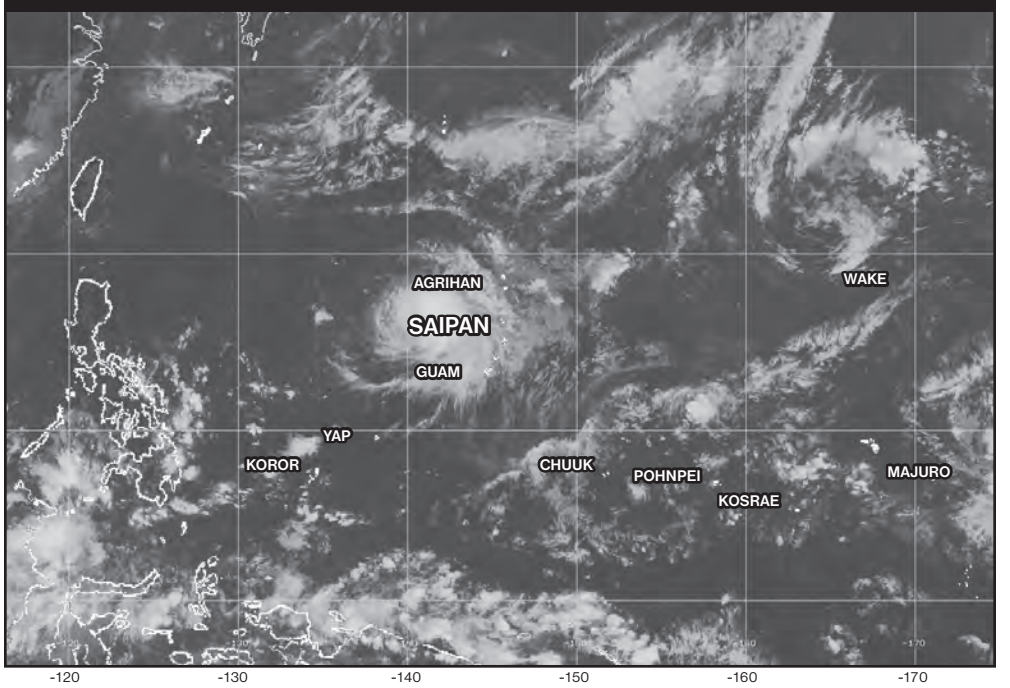
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.
86° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:34 AM THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Showers are retreating to the northwest along with Tropical Depression 11W. The only substantial change in the forecast is a reduction in shower coverage to match this. Guam and Rota went from scattered to isolated, and Tinian and Saipan went from numerous to scattered.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	88° / 79°
Palau	Showers in the Vicinity	90° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	90° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:10 AM	9:18 PM
Saturday	-	10:09 AM	10:02 PM
Sunday	-	11:09 AM	10:48 PM
Monday	-	12:10 PM	11:39 PM
Tuesday	-	1:11 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°
Beijing	Fair	92° / 74°
Hong Kong	Fair	88° / 78°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	69° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 64°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 37°
Miami	Fair	89° / 75°
New York	Clear	74° / 58°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Paris	Showers	95° / 83°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°
Salem	Thunderstorms	93° / 75°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 56°
Seoul	Cloudy	87° / 80°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	92° / 79°
Washington, DC	Fair	76° / 58°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:13 AM	Low Tide	0.65
9:53 AM	High Tide	2.06
4:23 PM	Low Tide	0.45
10:24 PM	High Tide	2.12

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Nation

Walz introduces himself after Clinton tears into Trump

CHICAGO (AP)—Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz accepted his party's nomination for vice president Wednesday night, using his Democratic National Convention address to thank the packed arena for "bringing the joy" to an election transformed by the elevation of his running mate, Vice President Kamala Harris.

"We're all here tonight for one beautiful, simple, reason: We love this country," Walz said as thousands of delegates hoisted vertical placards reading "Coach Walz" in red, white and blue.

Walz described his upbringing in Nebraska and teaching and coaching football in Minneosta and told the crowd, "Thank you for bringing the joy to this fight."

"While other states were banning books from their schools, we were banishing hunger from ours," he said. In a dig at his Republican counterpart, JD Vance, he added, "I had 24 kids in my high school class, and none of them went to Yale."

When Walz talked about the difficulty conceiving his daughter, Hope, she made a heart with her hands and held it over her chest. His son, Gus, wept watching his dad speak and at least once shouted, "That's my dad!"

AP

Democratic vice presidential nominee Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz speaks during the Democratic National Convention Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024, in Chicago.

"I haven't given a lot of speeches like this but I've given a lot of pep talks," Walz said.

Democrats gathered at Chicago's United Center are hoping to build on the momentum Harris has brought since taking over the top of the party's presidential ticket last month. They want to harness the Democratic exuberance that followed President Joe Biden stepping aside while also making clear to their supporters that they face a fierce battle with former President Donald Trump.

Many Americans had never heard of Walz until Harris made him her running mate. In his first weeks of campaigning, he's charmed supporters with his background and helped to balance Harris' coastal background as a cultural representative of Midwestern states whose voters she needs this fall.

But Walz also has faced scrutiny, including questions about embellishing his background. His wife this week clarified that she did not undergo in vitro fertilization, as Walz has repeatedly claimed, but used other fertility treatments. Republicans also have criticized Walz for a 2018 comment he made about carrying weapons in war. Though he served in the National Guard for 24 years, he did not deploy to a war zone.

Benjamin C. Ingman, one of Walz's old high school students, introduced the man many speakers—and Harris at times—have referred to as "Coach Walz." At Ingman's prompting, many of Walz's former players decked out in their red and white jerseys took the stage to help introduce him.

Walz's speech followed former President Bill Clinton who returned to a place he knows well, the Democratic National Convention stage, to denounce Donald Trump as selfish and praise Kamala Harris as focused on the needs of Americans—firing up his party with his trademark off-the-cuff flourishes.

Clinton was meant to add heft to a third DNC night headlined by vice presidential nominee Tim Walz 's introduction to a national audience.

"We've got a pretty clear choice it seems to me. Kamala Harris, for the people. And the other guy who has proved, even more than the first go-around, that he's about me, myself and I," Clinton said.

From cybercrime to terrorism, FBI director says US faces many elevated threats 'all at once'

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. (AP)—The country is facing heightened threats from many corners at a time when law enforcement agencies are struggling, FBI Director Christopher Wray said in an exclusive interview, adding that he is "hard pressed to think of a time in my career where so many different kinds of threats are all elevated at once."

Wray spoke Wednesday with The Associated Press while visiting the Minneapolis field office to talk about partnerships between law enforcement agencies and also with other entities. His remarks come as the FBI confronts heightened concerns over terrorism, both domestic and international, as well as Chinese espionage and intellectual property theft and foreign election interference.

"I worry about the combination of that many threats being elevated at once, with the challenges facing the men and women in law enforcement more generally," Wray said at the office in the suburb of Brooklyn Center. "And the one thing that I think helps bridge those two challenges is partnerships. That's how we get through. It is by all working together."

Wray's assessment of an elevated threat landscape is consistent with alarm bells he has sounded for months. Soon after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas in Israel, Wray began warning that the rampage could serve as an inspiration to militants, "the likes of which we haven't seen since ISIS launched its so-called caliphate years ago."

The FBI has also scrambled to deal with security concerns related to the United States' southern border, with officials revealing in June that eight people from Tajikistan with suspected ties to the Islamic State group were arrested and were being held on immigration violations.

Officials are also dealing with the specter of foreign election interference. The FBI and other federal agencies announced Monday that Iran was responsible for a hack targeting the Trump campaign and for an attempted breach of the Biden-Harris campaign, part of what officials portrayed as a brazen and aggressive effort to interfere in American politics.

Wray declined to talk about any specific investigation or threat but said investigations into cyberattacks, including against election infrastructure, candidates or campaigns, require help from the private sector.

Trump speaks from behind bulletproof glass at 1st outdoor rally since attempted assassination

ASHEBORO, N.C. (AP)—At his first outdoor rally since last month's attempted assassination, Donald Trump spoke from behind bulletproof glass Wednesday in North Carolina at an event focused on national security. On politics, he called his predecessor Barack Obama "nasty" for his comments the night before at the Democratic National Convention.

Trump blamed President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris for the deadly Afghanistan withdrawal and for wars in Ukraine and the Middle East while returning repeatedly in his remarks to the Democratic gathering in Chicago, where speaker after speaker has assailed Trump as a threat to the country should he return to the White House.

The former president, now the GOP nominee, asked the crowd gathered at the North Carolina Aviation Museum & Hall of Fame whether they had seen the speeches given Tuesday by former President Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama.

"He was taking shots at your president. And so was Michelle. You know, they always say, 'Sir, please stick to policy. Don't get personal.' And yet they're getting personal all night long, these people," he said, asking: "Do I still have to stick to policy?"

Trump, who is facing Harris in the November election after Biden stepped aside, spoke from behind a podium surrounded by panes of bulletproof glass that formed a protective wall across the stage—part of ramped-up security measures aimed at keeping him safe after the attack by a Pennsylvania gunman on July 13.

Storage containers were stacked around the perimeter to create additional walls and block sight lines. Snipers were positioned on roofs at the venue, where old aircraft were sitting behind the podium and a large American flag was suspended from cranes.

The event, billed as focused on national security issues, was part of Trump's weeklong series of counterprogramming to the Democratic National Convention, which is underway in Chicago. Allies have been urging him to focus on policy instead of personal attacks against Harris as he struggles to adjust to Biden's departure from the race.

The second night of the Democrats' convention Tuesday was a highly energized affair that featured speeches from both Obamas, who went after Trump in particularly biting terms.

"His limited and narrow view of the world made him feel threatened by the existence of two hardworking, highly educated, successful people who happen to be Black," Michelle Obama said.

Barack Obama mocked Trump's obsession with his crowd sizes and called Trump "a 78-year-old billionaire who hasn't stopped whining about his problems since he rode down his golden escalator nine years ago."

"It's been a constant stream of gripes and grievances that's actually gotten worse now that he's afraid of losing to Kamala," the former president said.

After mentioning the Obamas early on in his speech, Trump came back around to the former president's comments.

"He was very nasty last night," Trump said. "I try and be nice to people, you know. But it's a little tough when they get personal."

He then polled the crowd on whether he should listen to advisers who he said have told him, "Please, sir, don't get personal. Talk about policy."

"Should I get personal or should I not get personal?" he asked. The crowd overwhelmingly chose the former.

Trump also mocked the convention and its frequent references to him, calling it a "charade."

In his remarks, Trump derided Harris as "the most radical left person ever to run for high political office in our country," and said the woman he now calls "Comrade Kamala" will destroy the country if she is elected to the White House.

World

US prods Israel, Hamas to come to agreement on cease-fire deal

BUELLTON, Calif. (AP)—President Joe Biden spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday as the United States presses Israel and Hamas to agree to a "bridging proposal" that could lead to a cease-fire in the war in Gaza.

Hamas and Israel have signaled that challenges remain amid significant differences over the presence of Israeli troops in two strategic corridors in Gaza and other issues, dimming Biden's hopes that a deal can soon be reached. Vice President Kamala Harris, who is in Chicago this week to accept her party's nomination at the Democratic National Convention, also joined the call.

Biden "stressed the urgency of bringing the ceasefire and hostage release deal to closure," the White House said in a statement. The two leaders also discussed using high-level talks in Cairo this week between mediators from the U.S., Israel, Egypt and Qatar to work through "remaining obstacles" to an agreement.

But hope that a deal can be completed, at least in the near term, appears to be diminishing.

The president on Friday said he was "optimistic" that an agreement could be reached after he spoke by phone with Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, whose countries are key interlocutors with Hamas.

But by Tuesday, Biden was notably more muted about the prospects of the two sides coming to an agreement soon. He told reporters after delivering an address at the Democratic convention that "Hamas was now backing off," but that the U.S. is "going to keep pushing" to land a cease-fire deal.

AP

President Joe Biden, right, meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Thursday, July 25, 2024.

The president spoke with the Israeli prime minister from Santa Ynez, Calif., where he's vacationing with his family at the 8,000-acre property of the medical technology mogul and Democratic donor Joe Kiani.

The White House said Biden and Netanyahu discussed escalating tensions between Israel and Iran, and with militant groups—Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis—that are backed by Tehran.

The call came after Secretary of State Antony Blinken met this week with officials in Israel, Egypt, and Qatar and ahead of the new round of talks in Cairo later this week.

"This is a decisive moment, probably the best, maybe the last opportunity to get the hostages home, to get a ceasefire, and to put everyone on a better path to enduring peace and security," Blinken said after meeting with Netanyahu and Israeli President Isaac Herzog in Tel Aviv on Monday.

Officials in Egypt told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Hamas won't agree to the bridging proposal for a number of reasons—ones in addition to the long-held wariness over whether a deal would truly remove Israeli forces from Gaza and end the war.

One Egyptian official, with direct knowledge of the negotiations who requested anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter, said the bridging proposal requires the implementation of the deal's first phase, which has Hamas releasing the most vulnerable civilian hostages captured in its Oct. 7 attack on Israel that sparked the war. Parties during the first phase would negotiate the second and third phases with no "guarantees" to Hamas from Israel or mediators.

WORLD BRIEFS

Explosion and fire at a pharmaceutical plant in India kill at least 15 workers and injure 40

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—A big explosion triggered a fire in a pharmaceutical plant in southern India, killing at least 15 workers, police said Thursday. An additonal 40 people were injured in the blast and the fire in the chemical reactor of the plant in Andhra Pradesh state Wednesday and were hospitalized, police officer M. Deepika said, adding that some of them were in critical condition. The Press Trust of India news agency reported distressing scenes with the skin of several workers peeling off. Ambulances transported them to the hospital. Officials suspect the cause was related to the electricity at the plant. State authorities have ordered an investigation. The explosion occurred at the Escientia Company in Anakapalle district. The plant is about 350 kilometers (220 miles) northeast of Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh. The 5-year-old company manufactures intermediate chemicals and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Mexico convicts 11 cartel gunmen in killings of 122 bus passengers near US border over 2 years

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican prosecutors finally won convictions—and 50-year prison sentences—Wednesday against 11 drug cartel gunmen for the 2010-2011 massacre of 122 passengers who were pulled off passing buses and forced to fight each other to the death with sledgehammers. The sentences announced Wednesday involved one of the most gruesome chapters of Mexico's drug war, so horrific it was hard to believe until scores of bodies were found in unmarked graves with their skulls bashed in. Federal prosecutors said the 11 suspects were arrested between 2015 and 2017, and have been held in prison since that time. However, their trials have lasted between seven and nine years, which is not tremendously unusual in Mexico. Prosecutors in Tamaulipas state said at the time that members of the now-splintered Zetas cartel began pulling male passengers off buses headed to the border city of Reynosa, across the border from McAllen, Texas, or Matamoros, further east. Officials said at the time that the Zetas suspected the rival Gulf cartel was sending reinforcements on buses to the border cities they controlled. The Zetas pulled young men off the buses, questioned them, and offered some the chance to live and join the gang — if they proved their worth by fighting other innocent passengers with sledgehammers.

Guatemalan police arrest 7 accused of trafficking the 53 migrants who asphyxiated in Texas in 2022

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Guatemalan police on Wednesday arrested seven Guatemalans accused of having smuggled 53 migrants from Mexico and Central America who died of asphyxiation in 2022 in Texas after being abandoned in a tractor trailer in the scorching summer heat. They were the latest arrests after years of investigation into the deadliest tragedy of migrants smuggled across the border from Mexico. The dead included eight children. Interior Minister Francisco Jiménez told The Associated Press the arrests were made possible after 13 raids in three of the country's departments. They included Rigoberto Román Miranda Orozco, the alleged ringleader of the smuggling gang whose extradition has been requested by the United States. Police also seized vehicles and cash and rescued other migrants during the operations, they said in a statement. "This is a collaborative effort between the Guatemalan police and Homeland Security, in addition to other national agencies, to dismantle the structures of human trafficking, one of the strategic objectives of the government President Bernardo Arévalo in order to take on the phenomenon of irregular migration," Jiménez said. Six people were charged previously.

Moscow sees one of Ukraine's largest drone attacks

MOSCOW (AP)—Moscow came under one of the largest attacks by Ukrainian drones since the start of fighting in 2022, Russian authorities reported Wednesday, saying they destroyed all of those headed toward the country's capital.

The attacks came as Ukrainian forces continue to push into Russia's western Kursk region. In the past week, they have also struck three bridges, several airfields and an oil depot in a sign they are not letting up on their attacks.

Late Wednesday, the governor of Russia's Bryansk, which borders both Kursk and Ukraine, said Russian forces turned back a Ukrainian attempt to enter that region.

Governor Alexander Bogomaz identified the Ukrainian forces as a "sabotage and reconnaissance group" but did not specify if they were part of Ukraine's military. He said on the Telegram channel that the attempted incursion was in the area of Klimovo, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of the section of Kursk held by Ukrainian forces.

"This was one of the biggest attempts of all time to attack Moscow using drones," Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said on Telegram. Strong defenses around the Russian capital made it possible to shoot down all the drones before they could hit their intended targets, he said.

Russia said it downed 45 Ukrainian drones overnight, including 11 over the Moscow region. There was no independent information to verify those figures. Some Russian social media channels shared videos of drones apparently being destroyed by air defense systems, which then set off car alarms.

Ukrainian drone strikes have brought the fight far from the front line into the heart of Russia, targeting Moscow and Russia's second city St. Petersburg, as well as an airport in western Russia, according to Russian officials.

Since the beginning of the year, Ukraine has stepped up aerial assaults on Russian soil, targeting refineries and oil terminals to slow down the Kremlin's assault.

A fire at an oil depot targeted by Ukraine burned for the fourth day Wednesday in Rostov, a region in southwestern Russia that borders Ukraine. Priests from the Russian Orthodox Church held prayers for injured firefighters as dark plumes of smoke rose from the depot in Proletarsk, according to a photo shared on social media by the Volgodonsk diocese.

Ukraine's daring land incursion into Russia has raised morale in Ukraine with its surprising success and changed the dynamic of the fighting. But it is also risky — Ukrainian forces were already badly stretched, with fighting underway along a stretch of over 970 kilometers (600 miles). The gains in Kursk come as Ukraine continues to lose ground in the eastern industrial region of Donbas.

The Russian state news agency Tass reported that 31 people had died since Ukraine's incursion started Aug. 6, figures that are impossible to verify. It said 143 people were injured, of whom 79 were hospitalized, including four children.

A Ukrainian drone dropped an explosive device on a car in the Bolshesoldatsky area of Kursk, slightly northeast of the town of Sudzha, the acting governor Alexei Smirnov said. One woman was killed and two others were hospitalized, he said.

Russia's Central Electoral Commission announced that local elections in six districts and one city of the Kursk region scheduled for Sept. 8 will be postponed and rescheduled when voters' safety can be guaranteed.

Maria Zakharova, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, said Ukraine's attack on Kursk has ended "any possibility" of peace negotiations.

"Who will negotiate with them after this, after the atrocities, the terror that they are committing against peaceful residents, the civilian population, civilian infrastructure and peaceful facilities," she told reporters Wednesday in Moscow.

Life & Style

Taylor Swift calls cancellation of Vienna shows 'devastating'

LONDON (AP)—Two weeks after organizers scrubbed Taylor Swift's concerts in Vienna amid a foiled terror plot, the singer issued her first statement on the cancellations.

"Having our Vienna shows cancelled was devastating," she wrote in a statement posted to Instagram on Wednesday. "The reason for the cancellations filled me with a new sense of fear, and a tremendous amount of guilt because so many people had planned on coming to those shows."

She thanked authorities—"thanks to them, we were grieving concerts and not lives," she wrote—and said she waited to speak until the European leg of her Eras Tour concluded to prioritize safety.

"Let me be very clear: I am not going to speak about something publicly if I think doing so might provoke those who would want to harm the fans who come to my shows," she wrote.

AP

Taylor Swift performs at Wembley Stadium as part of her Eras Tour, June 21, 2024, in London.

In the wake of the cancellations, Swift's representatives did not respond to multiple requests for comment from The Associated Press and other news organizations and her social media pages had gone dormant.

"In cases like this one, 'silence' is actually showing restraint, and waiting to express yourself at a time when it's right to. My priority was finishing our European tour safely, and it's with great relief that I can say we did that," she added.

Concert organizer Barracuda Music had said it canceled the three-night Vienna run that would have begun Aug. 8 because the arrests made in connection to the conspiracy were too close to showtime. Authorities said a 19-year-old suspect had planned to target spectators outside the Ernst Happel Stadium with knives or homemade explosives, hoping to "kill as many people as possible." Austrian officials said they appeared to have been inspired by the Islamic State group and al-Qaida.

That suspect and another 17-year-old were taken into custody on Aug. 6, the day before the shows were announced as canceled. A third suspect, 18, was arrested Aug. 8. The 19-year-old's lawyer has said the allegations were "overacting at its best," and contended Austrian authorities were "presenting this exaggeratedly" in order to get new surveillance powers.

Tens of thousands of Swifties from around the world had traveled to Vienna for the shows.

» Then explains her silence

Swift's Instagram post also commemorated the end of the European leg with a tribute to her five nights at London's Wembley Stadium, which she said factored into her decision to wait to speak out and ultimately "felt like a beautiful dream sequence."

"I decided that all of my energy had to go toward helping to protect the nearly half a million people I had coming to see the shows in London," she wrote the day after her last Wembley concert. "My team and I worked hand in hand with stadium staff and British authorities every day in pursuit of that goal."

The shows in London, the next stop scheduled after Vienna, also came on the heels of a stabbing at a Swift-themed dance class that left three little girls dead in the U.K. In a statement issued after the Southport attack, Swift said she was "just completely in shock" and "at a complete loss for how to ever convey my sympathies to these families." News outlets reported that Swift met with some of the survivors backstage in London.

The record-smashing tour is on hiatus until October, when it resumes in Miami.

Lionsgate recalls and apologizes for 'Megalopolis' trailer for fabricated quotes

Lionsgate recalled its new trailer for Francis Ford Coppola's "Megalopolis" Wednesday amid revelations that critics' quotes were fabricated.

"Lionsgate is immediately recalling our trailer for Megalopolis," a Lionsgate spokesperson said in a statement to The Associated Press. "We offer our sincere apologies to the critics involved and to Francis Ford Coppola and American Zoetrope for this inexcusable error in our vetting process. We screwed up. We are sorry."

The trailer, released earlier Wednesday, included quotes from critics like Pauline Kael and Roger Ebert of other Coppola films that did not actually appear in their reviews. The intent, it seems, was to highlight the critical divisiveness of now-classics like "The Godfather" and "Apocalypse Now," leaning into some of the more negative reactions to "Megalopolis," the self-financed $120 million epic opening in September.

The trailer attributed a quote to Kael that "The Godfather" was "diminished by its artsiness." But Kael loved "The Godfather," and this phrase was not used in her March 1972 review of the film for The New Yorker. Ebert also did not write that Coppola's "Bram Stoker's Dracula" was "a triumph of style over substance." Quotes from Rex Reed and Vincent Canby, about "Apocalypse Now," did not appear in their reviews either.

"Megalopolis" has been decades in the making, and it received many mixed reviews upon its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year. It has also come under scrutiny of late for alleged misconduct on set, after videos leaked of Coppola hugging and kissing extras during a club scene. Representatives have not responded to the AP's requests for comment about the videos.

The film is set to have its North American premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival next month before hitting theaters on Sept. 27. ***(AP)***

PBS' Judy Woodruff apologizes for an on-air remark about peace talks in Israel

Woodruff

Veteran PBS correspondent Judy Woodruff apologized on Wednesday for comments she had made on the air regarding former President Donald Trump and negotiations for a cease-fire in Gaza between Israel and Hamas.

Woodruff, during PBS' Democratic national convention coverage on Monday, repeated a story she had read in Axios and Reuters that Trump had allegedly been encouraging Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to put off peace talks until after the U.S. election in the belief that a deal could help Democrat Kamala Harris' campaign.

But Woodruff said in a post on X Wednesday that she had not seen later reporting that the story had been denied by the Trump campaign and Israel. She said her remarks had not been based on any original reporting on her part.

"This was a mistake, and I apologize for it," Woodruff said.

Woodruff's long career in journalism has included time at CNN and NBC News. She was host of PBS' "NewsHour" between 2013 and 2022, before stepping down for a reporting project. ***(AP)***

Sister's bird gets the royal treatment

DEAR ABBY: My sister has a squawky bird she insists on keeping alongside the dinner table when she invites guests for dinner. Its ear-piercing screeching inhibits guests' ability to carry on normal conversation, so I asked her if, in the future, she could please put the bird in another room during dinner. She responded that the bird is a family member. I said, "So are children, but they aren't permitted to run around the dining table screeching when there is company over."

This year, when we returned for another dinner, she pulled the bird and its cage even closer to the table and the person sitting next to her than last time. She apparently decided the comfort of her guests is not as important as her closeness to the bird.

I don't know how to address this in the future when she disregards my feedback. Aside from the squawking, it's not appealing to have a birdcage pulled up alongside a dinner table, or to have the host constantly distracted and conversation interrupted. What is your advice?

NERVE-WRACKED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NERVE-WRACKED: Because it's clear your advice wasn't appreciated, the next time you are invited to a dinner party at your sister's home, feel free to say you are busy. The only bird at the table should be a nice roasted chicken or a stuffed turkey.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have my car detailed at a car wash near the beach. When I took my car there, I forgot to remove the spare change I keep for parking meters and laundry machines. When I got my car back, about eight dollars in quarters and dollar coins were missing. Dimes, nickels and pennies were left behind. I emailed the owner the next day.

The owner called me, apologized and refunded the full price of my car detail. I told him the refund wasn't necessary and that I only wanted him to know what had happened. Because I used the word "steal" in my email, he took offense. I replied on the phone that the money was gone after I got my car back. He said he wished me well, and I replied, "Are you saying you no longer want to do business with me?"

Now I feel bad. I did nothing wrong and only tried to alert him to a problem with his workers. As the saying goes, "No good deed goes unpunished." What do I do now, or should have I done differently?

SUFFERING FOR TRYING TO HELP

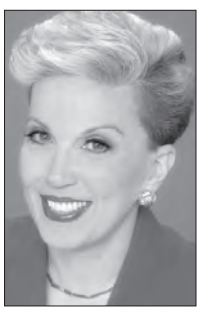
DEAR SUFFERING: Do not let one bad apple spoil the barrel. Of course you should have informed the owner of the business about what happened. By comping the price of the car wash for your $8 loss, he did his best to make things right.

If the conversation you had with him was civil, he likely wants you to continue doing business with him. The next time you go in, make a point of smoothing things over. In the future, remember to remove your valuables from the car when you go.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



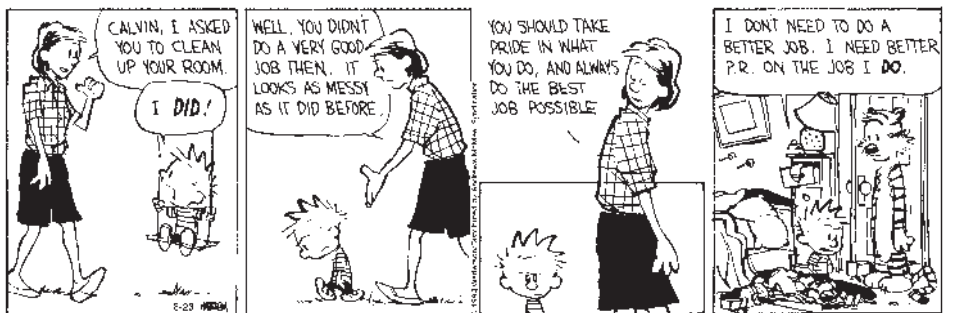
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

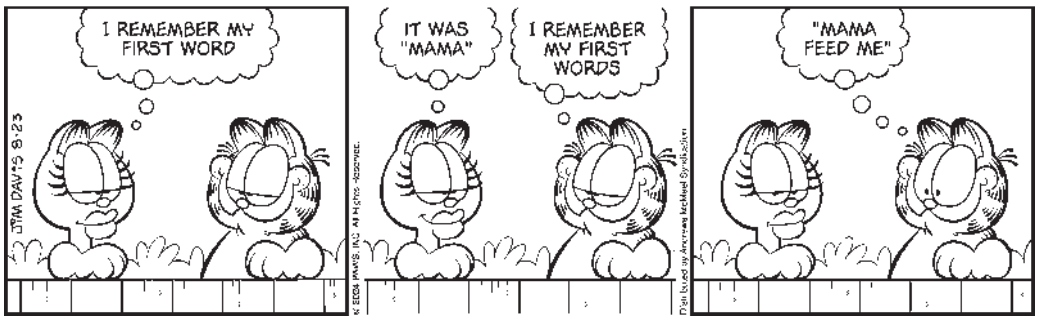
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, I ASKED YOU TO CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM.
I DID!
WELL, YOU DIDN'T DO A VERY GOOD JOB THEN. IT LOOKS AS MESSY AS IT DID BEFORE.
YOU SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT YOU DO, AND ALWAYS DO THE BEST JOB POSSIBLE.
I DON'T NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB. I NEED BETTER P.R. ON THE JOB I DO.

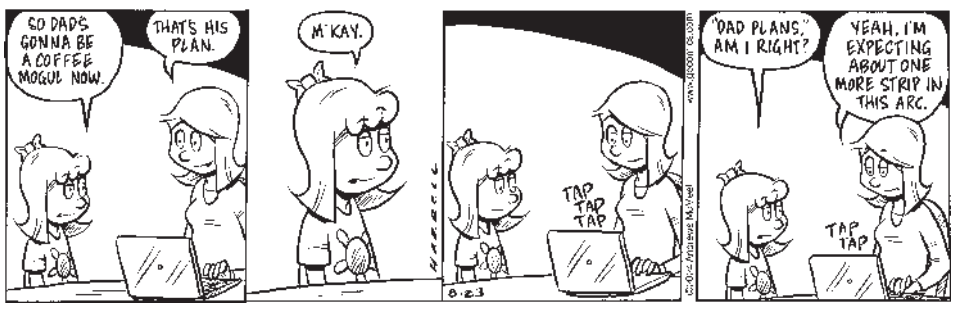
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



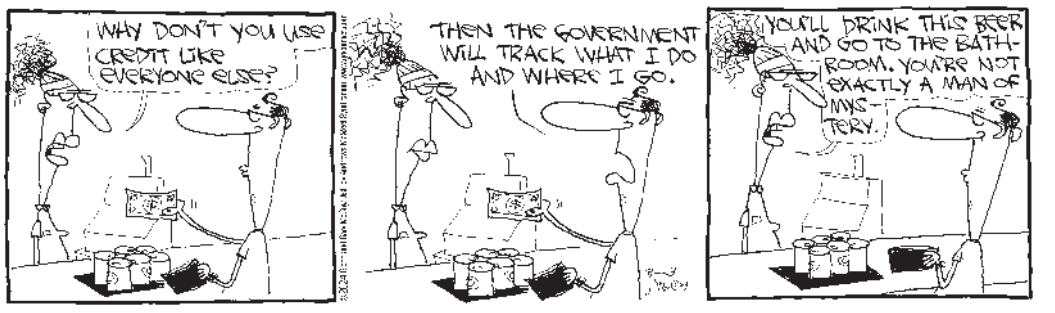
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO DAD'S GONNA BE A COFFEE MOGUL NOW.
THAT'S HIS PLAN.
M'KAY.
TAP TAP TAP
"DAD PLANS," AM I RIGHT?
YEAH, I'M EXPECTING ABOUT ONE MORE STRIP IN THIS ARC.
TAP TAP

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHY DON'T YOU USE CREDIT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?
THEN THE GOVERNMENT WILL TRACK WHAT I DO AND WHERE I GO.
YOU'LL DRINK THIS BEER AND GO TO THE BATHROOM. YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY A MAN OF MYSTERY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Taj —
6 "Nova" airer
9 Moo — pork
12 Make twisty
13 Fish eggs
14 Signature piece?
15 Handled
16 Scrutinize
18 ATM part
20 Incite
21 Compass dir.
23 Elmer, to Bugs
24 Pick up the tab
25 Fellows
27 "Holy cow!"
29 Playwright Eugene
31 Type of street
35 Egg holders
37 Scarce
38 "Star Trek" genre
41 "— a Rebel"
43 Architect Maya
44 Language of Pakistan
45 Mexican liquor
47 Peeper covers
49 Amtrak express
52 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
53 Conk out
54 Synthetic fabric
55 Soon-to-be grads
56 Bro's kin
57 Prolonged attack

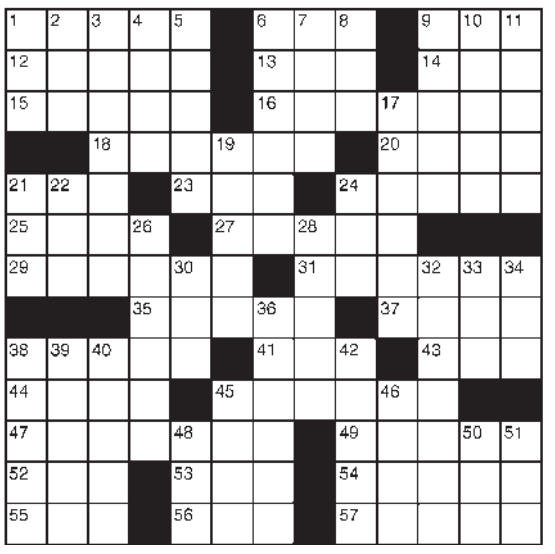
DOWN

1 Brit. sports cars
2 Literary collection
3 Iowa native
4 Prado display
5 Frank — Wright
6 Sermonize
7 "Cheers" barman Woody
8 Behold
9 Memoir by Prince Harry
10 Hägar's wife
11 Vacant, as a flat
17 Stovetop feature
19 Swimming spots
21 Private aid gp.
22 Cloister resident
24 Light brown
26 Decadent
28 Heston role
30 Luau necklace
32 Perchlike fish
33 "Entourage" role
34 Kyoto currency
36 School papers
38 Litigants
39 Jon of "NCIS"
40 Concepts
42 Bar fight reminders
45 1502, in Old Rome
46 Antioxidant berry
48 Check-cashing needs
50 Journal
51 Hydrocarbon ending

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	R	A	B		S	O	D		C	M	O	N
H	F	R	A		Y	O	O		R	A	G	A
A	B	E	L		C	I	O		I	G	E	R
B	A	A	B	A		R	O	M	N	E	Y	
			O	I	M			L	L	O		
W	A	W	A		O	I	R	C	A	L	L	Y
A	S	H			R	A	E			I	S	E
S	C	I	N	Γ	C	L	D		W	A	D	S
		I	O	A			M	H	I			
S	I	E	N	N	A		A	C	R	I	A	L
O	B	O	E		V	I	P		I	H	I	S
Γ	I	A	T		O	W	L		N	A	D	A
A	S	K	S		W	O	E		G	N	A	I

Yesterday's answer 8-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Lin, 36; Jaime Lee Kirchner, 43; Scott Caan, 48; Shelley Long, 75.

Happy Birthday: Embrace what's important to you, not what others want you to do. It's your life, your rules; take the time to figure out what makes you happy and initiate your dreams. Being true to yourself is the first step to being true to others. Learn from experience, and you will gain respect and attract people who recognize your value. Don't give up or give in; give back. Your numbers are 9, 14, 22, 27, 30, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Having an open mind, observing and being willing to try something new will make a difference in how you proceed and the response you encounter. Don't rule out what you can accomplish because of someone's criticism or jealousy. Work alone, perfect your idea and take credit for your ingenuity. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share your thoughts passionately, and you'll gain acceptance and valid suggestions. Don't let stubbornness stop you from moving in a direction that offers benefits. Getting along will be necessary to get your ideas up and running. Health issues require a lifestyle change. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Resolve personal issues and confirm what others plan to do before you set your schedule for the day. Someone will let you down if you don't specify your needs systematically. Be ready to adjust to last-minute changes or someone's hidden agenda. Don't overreact; be prepared to act. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Play fair. Using emotional manipulation will not play out in your favor. Incentives will bridge the gap between what you want and what others are willing to offer. Pay attention to how well your surroundings function, and make changes that accommodate your needs. Romance is favored. ✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sit and soak up the energy around you. Observe how well things are running and who is responsible for what. The insight you gain will help you understand what's necessary to simplify your life and make your daily routine function efficiently. Eliminate stressful situations. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Note what others expect from you and stick to the script. Take on only what you can handle or those responsibilities that belong to you. Putting your time, effort and skills into something that matters to you will bring the most satisfaction and gratitude. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A shift in how you deal with others and your conversations will help point you toward like-minded people and the chance to make a difference. Don't hold back when you have so much to offer. Be the driving force; it's your turn, so get moving. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the initiative and let those you encounter get a glimpse of what you are trying to achieve. The people who stick around will have valuable input that will pique your imagination and inspire you to go the distance. Change looks promising, and partnerships are inviting. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Clock the time it takes to get your responsibilities out of the way and consider how to become more efficient. Taking the initiative to improve is in your best interest and will prepare you for what's yet to come your way. Forward-thinking, learning and networking are favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen and act for those who cannot advocate for themselves. Your input will be appreciated and paid for through kindness, generosity and support. Make your mission innovative change and hands-on input to enforce positive transitions. Put time aside to relax with someone you love. Romance is favored. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Revisit your plans and consider the expense before you act. Offer less with the intent of adding extras if your budget, time and skills allow you to expand your interests. Understate your intentions and wow everyone by enhancing your plans as you move forward. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may crave change, but only some people you deal with will embrace your thoughts and plans. Start with those close to you and implement something you know will capture their attention and satisfy their needs. If you please others first, you'll get what you want. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are open-minded, proactive and entertaining. You are persistent and imaginative.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1		7	4					
	3					8	7	
				8				6
		3			2			7
6			1				2	
2	9		6				8	
					9	7	5	3
			7		6			
	2				8	6		9

Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	4	8	7	5	1	2	3	9
5	3	9	4	8	2	1	7	6
2	1	7	3	6	9	5	8	4
1	8	5	6	4	7	3	9	2
9	6	3	5	2	8	4	1	7
7	2	4	9	1	3	8	6	5
4	9	6	8	3	5	7	2	1
8	5	2	1	7	6	9	4	3
3	7	1	2	9	4	6	5	8

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/22

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SOCIAL EVENTS Solution: 7 letters

S	E	C	I	V	I	L	S	O	C	I	E	T	Y	O
E	L	H	L	A	N	O	I	S	S	E	F	O	R	P
M	P	U	C	P	I	R	T	B	E	Ⓓ	J	G	C	O
I	O	R	A	N	P	S	A	C	Y	N	Ⓐ	O	N	P
A	E	C	L	O	U	R	A	G	E	N	M	Ⓣ	M	U
S	P	H	L	R	B	L	O	S	I	M	I	L	Ⓔ	L
T	P	I	T	E	P	L	U	Z	U	E	N	I	E	A
N	T	A	C	K	O	O	A	N	E	D	G	F	T	R
E	R	U	R	N	E	T	I	S	U	I	L	E	T	E
V	E	O	H	T	I	T	E	R	G	A	E	S	E	P
E	W	C	R	O	Y	C	D	I	O	Y	O	T	A	P
R	E	U	N	I	O	N	A	A	L	H	L	Y	M	I
T	O	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	A	B	U	L	C	H
C	O	N	V	E	R	S	A	T	I	O	N	E	A	C
T	X	E	T	A	E	B	P	U	D	I	N	N	E	R

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 8/23

Barbecue, Call, Chipper, Church, Civil, Club, Community, Conversation, Courteous, Date, Dialogue, Dinner, Enjoy, Events, Fairs, Friends, Host, Lifestyle, Lunch, Media, Meet, Mingle, Organization, Parade, Party, People, Picnic, Polite, Popular, Professional, Rally, Reunion, Society, Team, Technology, Text, Trip, Trust, Upbeat, Workplace

Yesterday's Answer: Retire

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Winker's pinch-hit homer in 9th gives Mets win over Orioles

NEW YORK (AP)—Pinch-hitter Jesse Winker led off the ninth inning with his first home run for the New York Mets, giving them another rousing 4-3 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday.

Mets starter Sean Manaea retired his first 17 batters and Mark Vientos put New York ahead 3-2 with a solo homer in the seventh.

Francisco Lindor also went deep and J.D. Martinez drove in a run with a grounder to help the Mets take two of three in the series. New York began the day 2 1/2 games behind Atlanta for the final National League playoff berth, with the Braves scheduled to host Philadelphia later.

AP

New York Mets' Jesse Winker follows through on a walk off home run against the Baltimore Orioles during the ninth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024, in New York.

RED SOX 4, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Rookie Ceddanne Rafaela doubled twice with two RBIs and fellow rookie David Hamilton added a solo homer in the ninth inning to lead Boston Red to a win over Houston.

Rafaela's first double off Justin Verlander (3-3) gave Boston a 2-1 lead in the second inning. He drove in another run with a double with two outs in the seventh.

Hamilton's home run to right field off Seth Martinez made it 4-1 with two outs in the ninth.

RANGERS 1, PIRATES 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Wyatt Langford's single scored pinch-runner Ezequiel Duran with two out in the ninth inning, giving Texas a win over Pittsburgh.

Jonah Heim and Adolis García singled off David Bednar (3-6) to open Texas' half of the ninth. Duran, running for Heim, advanced to third on a flyout to deep right field by Nathaniel Lowe. Bednar struck out Josh Jung on a 3-2 fastball after García stole second base. Langford then laced an RBI single to center field.

The winning run ended a streak of 22 scoreless innings in the series for the Rangers, who claimed two of three games against the Pirates and ended a string of seven consecutive lost series.

Kirby Yates (5-2) pitched a perfect ninth inning for the Rangers, who have won three of their last four games.

WHITE SOX 6, GIANTS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Korey Lee hit a tiebreaking two-run single that highlighted a four-run ninth inning as the Chicago White Sox snapped a four-game skid with a win over San Francisco.

Luis Robert Jr. and Andrew Benintendi drew consecutive walks off Erik Miller (3-4) with one out in the ninth. After Andrew Vaughn reached on an infield single, Miller struck out Gavin Sheets. Then, Lee singled on a 2-2 fastball from Spencer Bivens, giving the White Sox a 4-2 lead. Lenyn Sosa followed with another two-run single to help seal the win.

Robert and Sheets had two hits apiece and Vaughn added two RBIs as MLB-worst Chicago won for just the third time in nine games.

Fraser Ellard (1-1) retired three batters and earned the win. Former Giants reliever John Brebbia, the last of five Chicago pitchers, worked the ninth as the White Sox closed out a 2-4 road trip.

Mark Canha had two hits for the Giants (65-64), who had a three-game winning streak halted.

NATIONALS 6, ROCKIES 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mitchell Parker gave up one run and five hits in seven innings, Luis García Jr. hit a three-run homer and Washington beat Colorado.

James Wood had three hits for the Nationals, who had scored a total of 14 runs while losing five of their past six games. Keibert Ruiz and Andrés Chaparro had two hits each.

Parker (7-7), who gave up nine runs on 10 hits in three innings against the Phillies last time out, walked one and struck out six while throwing 83 pitches. The rookie left-hander has completed seven innings in four of his 23 starts.

Brendan Rodgers and Brenton Doyle each had a double and a single for the Rockies, who had won three of four.

YANKEES 8, GUARDIANS 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge homered twice and drove in three runs and Juan Soto hit a two-run homer in the first inning and drove in five to power the New York Yankees to a rout over Cleveland.

Judge hit a two-run homer in the third and added a solo shot in the seventh, upping his major league-leading total to 47. Judge has six homers in his last nine games, 12 in his last 23 games and is on pace to hit 60 home runs.

Nestor Cortes (7-10) pitched seven innings of four-hit ball and gave New York some much-needed length after the Yankees used every reliever Tuesday. The lefty won consecutive starts for the first time since May 17 and 22.

TWINS 11, PADRES 4

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Matt Wallner's three-run homer highlighted a seven-run fourth inning as Minnesota beat San Diego.

With the win, Minnesota snapped a three-game skid and avoided a sweep in San Diego. The Twins completed a seven-game trip at 4-3.

The Padres lost for just the seventh time in 29 games.

Minnesota start Simeon Woods Richardson (5-3) was helped by the Twins' 18-hit attack and won his second straight start. The 23-year-old right-hander blanked the Padres through four innings and allowed a run on three hits, with seven strikeouts and two walks.

PHILLIES 3, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Brandon Marsh's tie-breaking pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the eighth inning lifted Philadelphia to a win over Atlanta.

The win pushed the Phillies' lead in the National League East to seven games over the Braves, with five games remaining between the two teams in the regular season.

Weston Wilson went 2 for 3 and scored the winning run in the eighth after leading off with a double. Kyle Schwarber and Trea Turner each had an RBI for the Phillies.

Phillies starter Aaron Nola pitched 5 1/3 innings, giving up two runs on eight hits and two walks. He struck out five.

Matt Strahm (5-2) pitched a scoreless seventh to pick up the win.

Carlos Estévez earned his 22nd save, stranding runners on second and third to end the game.

DIAMONDBACKS 10, MARLINS 8

MIAMI (AP)—Corbin Carroll and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. homered to help Eduardo Rodriguez and Arizona beat Miami.

Arizona, which finished with four hits, improved to a major league-best 30-13 since July 1. Carroll also singled and scored on Joc Pederson's base hit, and Geraldo Perdomo walked twice.

Rodriguez allowed one run and six hits over 5 1/3 innings in his third start of the season since being activated from the injured list on Aug. 7. Rodriguez (2-0) struck out five and walked one.

Ryan Thompson, A.J. Puk and Justin Martinez combined for 3 2/3 innings of one-hit ball after Rodriguez departed. Martinez worked a perfect ninth for his fourth save in five opportunities.

ROYALS 3, ANGELS 0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Michael Lorenzen pitched seven shutout innings, MJ Melendez homered and Kansas City beat the Los Angeles Angels for their sixth win in seven games.

The Royals spoiled the season debut of Johnny Cueto (0-1), a 17-year veteran who helped Kansas City win the 2015 World Series.

Cueto hadn't pitched in the majors since Sept. 27 last year with the Marlins. He signed a minor league contract with the Angels in July, and was called up from Triple-A Salt Lake earlier Wednesday. He allowed three runs on eight hits and two walks in 6 1/3 innings and left the mound to an ovation from the Kansas City crowd.

Lorenzen (7-6) allowed four hits, two walks, a hit batter and struck out five. He only allowed two runners to reach scoring position.

TIGERS 8, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Riley Greene, Trey Sweeney and Kerry Carpenter homered, helping Detroit beat the Chicago Cubs.

Detroit won for the seventh time in nine games, bouncing back nicely after losing 3-1 to Chicago in the series opener on Tuesday. Greene, Sweeney and Carpenter were among seven left-handed batters in the Tigers' starting lineup for the matchup with Cubs right-hander Jameson Taillon.

Brant Hurter (1-1), the second of five Detroit pitchers, worked 3 2/3 innings for his first win in his fourth major league appearance. The 6-foot-6 left-hander was struck by Seiya Suzuki's comebacker in the sixth, but he stayed in the game for one more batter.

REDS 11, BLUE JAYS 7

TORONTO (AP)—Elly De La Cruz homered and became the fifth player since 1901 to have at least 20 home runs and 60 stolen bases in a single season and Cincinnati overcame a six-run deficit to beat Toronto.

Spencer Steer hit a two-run home run, and Noelvi Marte and Jonathan India also connected as the Reds took two of three from Toronto.

De La Cruz reached base four times. He stole third base in the fifth inning, his majors-leading 60th. De La Cruz added his 22nd homer, a solo shot off Zach Pop in the eighth.

CARDINALS 10, BREWERS 6, 10 INNINGS

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Nolan Arenado hit a grand slam in the 10th inning to give St. Louis a comeback victory over Milwaukee.

Arenado's fifth career walk-off homer and sixth career grand slam gave the Cardinals their second win in their last eight games and snapped the Brewers' six-game winning streak.

The Brewers led 6-4 after Joey Ortiz's two-run double in the eighth inning.

But the Cardinals capitalized on Devin Williams' control issues as the Brewers' closer suffered his first blown save of the season. Williams hit Willson Contreras to start the ninth and St. Louis tied the game at 6-all with bases loaded walks to Matt Carpenter and Tommy Pham.

Ryan Helsley (5-4) pitched a scoreless 10th. Cardinals starter Kyle Gibson pitched 5 1/3 innings, while allowing two runs on seven hits, striking out five and walking two.

RAYS 4, ATHLETICS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Jose Siri hit a late go-ahead homer for the second straight game, and Tampa Bay beat Oakland.

Siri's 423-foot, two-run blast to left in the seventh inning broke a 2-2 tie. The center fielder had been hitless in 21 at-bats prior to driving in the lone run of the game in the Rays' 1-0 win on Tuesday with an eighth-inning solo homer. He went 2 for 4 on Wednesday.

The Rays have won five of six, while the A's lost consecutive games for just the second time since the All-Star break.

DODGERS 8, MARINERS 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Max Muncy's three-run double highlighted a five-run fifth inning, Shohei Ohtani stole his 39th base of the season and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Seattle to complete a three-game sweep.

Ohtani is just one stolen base and one home run away from becoming the fastest player in major league history to reach 40-40. The Japanese superstar would be the first player in Dodgers history to do so.

The NL West leaders outscored the Mariners 17-7 in the interleague series and have won 10 in a row over Seattle. The Dodgers won their fourth in a row to increase their lead over Arizona and San Diego to four games.

Dodgers starter Jack Flaherty (10-5) allowed two runs—one earned—and five hits in 5 2/3 innings. The right-hander struck out five and walked one.

Rookie Nix wins Broncos' starting QB job over Stidham, Wilson

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)— Denver's unconventional quarterback competition concluded Wednesday with one final plot twist when Broncos coach Sean Payton walked up to his QBs during warmups and informed them rookie Bo Nix had won the starting job.

"He smiled," Payton said of the 12th overall pick out of Oregon and sixth QB selected in the 2024 NFL draft. "We were getting ready to practice, and that was it. You know, we didn't have cake and candles or anything like that."

Payton didn't even share the news with the rest of his team when he gathered everyone after practice.

"I haven't told the rest of the team yet," Payton said. "Because I'm not going to spend meetings with the rest of the team on every one of these other positions."

Besides, he said, "they've kind of seen this coming."

Nix, who started an NCAA QB-record 61 times at Oregon and Auburn, has led the Broncos to scores on six of the seven drives he's directed in the preseason and he's been statistically one of the league's best passers this month.

Payton said one of his resolutions for this year was having a better relationship with the local media, so he made sure not to leak the news of his decision to anyone in the national media.

But he did inform about 50 local military members participating at "USAA's Salute to Service NFL Boot Camp" of his choice before taking the podium, saying he was in a hurry because he had to go announce Nix as his starter.

AP

Denver Broncos quarterback Bo Nix warms up before a preseason NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers, Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024, in Denver.

Payton wouldn't discuss his plans at QB for Sunday's exhibition finale against Arizona but chances are the two veterans he beat out will share that workload.

Nix isn't a flashy sort, so he didn't mind the manner in which he was informed he'd be the first rookie to start at quarterback for the Broncos since Hall of Famer John Elway in 1983.

"Yeah, he walked up and said he's going to tell you guys (in the media) this afternoon. (So) let's have a good practice," Nix recounted.

And Nix did just that.

"We all attacked every day like we were the starter," Nix said. "So, if you with that mindset, when they tell you (you're the starter) it shouldn't change much because you've been practicing that way and that's your daily habit."

Nix thanked the two veterans he beat out: Zach Wilson, the 2021 second overall draft pick by the Jets, and Jarrett Stidham, who was at once a career backup and Denver's incumbent by virtue of his two starts at the end of last season when Payton benched Russell Wilson.

In his second year in Payton's system, Stidham got off to a quick start in the QB competition in July and Zach Wilson showed by far the best arm strength of the three. But Nix caught on — and caught up — quickly and he shined against the Colts and Packers in exhibition games and against Green Bay in a joint practice last week.

Nix has completed 77% of his passes for 205 yards and a pair of touchdowns with no interceptions and a 116.7 passer rating in the preseason.

Payton said he was impressed by Nix's quick processor and his ability to navigate a "dirty pocket" when the pass rush closes in, both attributes that will make him the 14th different player to start at the position since Hall of Famer Peyton Manning retired in 2016 shortly after Denver beat Carolina in Super Bowl 50.

"You saw in every game he played (at Oregon) a dirty picket, a quick plant step, ball out accurately. And for some guys that's hard to do, they need a full stride and a clean pocket," Payton said. "He became a tough sack because the ball is out. Now, you have to go be able to process very quickly, too. You saw that on film."

The Broncos have yet to return to the playoffs since winning the franchise's third Lombardi Trophy in Manning's farewell game. They hope their QB carousel has finally stopped spinning.

Trevor Siemian (13-11) is the only full-time starter to have a winning record in the past eight years.

Also passing through Denver's QB turnstile were Paxton Lynch (1-3), Brock Osweiler (0-4), Case Keenum (6-10), Joe Flacco (2-6), Brandon Allen (1-2), Jeff Driskel (0-1), Brett Rypien (2-1), Drew Lock (8-13), Teddy Bridgewater (7-7), Russell Wilson (11-19), and Stidham (1-1).

Also, running back Phillip Lindsay got the start in the wildcat in 2020 when all of Denver's QBs were suspended a game for violating the league's pandemic protocols.

Kadarius Toney, James Bradberry, Bailey Zappe headline list of players on the roster bubble

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Nick Sirianni was an assistant coach with the Chargers in 2017 when Austin Ekeler made the team following a strong performance in the final preseason game.

Ekeler now is in his eighth NFL season and first in Washington.

Sirianni, who is entering his fourth season as the Eagles head coach, used clips from Ekeler to motivate players going into Philadelphia's preseason finale last year. He'll try the same tactic before the Eagles face Minnesota on Saturday.

"Yeah, we'll probably do something similar to that," Sirianni said Wednesday. "But as far as the guys here, we had a good amount of undrafted free agents make it the last couple years."

Sirianni cited Eagles punt returner Britain Covey, cornerback Josh Jobe and linebacker Ben VanSumeren.

The final preseason game is an opportunity for players on the bubble to impress coaches and earn a roster spot before Tuesday's deadline for cuts. Late-round draft picks and undrafted rookies benefit most from the playing time.

Ekeler was an undrafted running back struggling to make the Chargers before he caught the coaching staff's attention by gaining 108 yards combined rushing and receiving. He eventually worked up to a starting role and had 38 touchdowns rushing and receiving in 2021-22. The Commanders gave him a two-year, $11.4 million contract in free agency.

While young players battle for roster spots this weekend, several veteran players are on edge because they could be on the way out.

Here are five veteran players on the bubble:

Kadarius Toney

Wide receiver Kadarius Toney, a 2021 first-round pick by the New York Giants, helped the Kansas City Chiefs win the Super Bowl two years ago after they acquired him in a trade during the season. In a three-minute span in the fourth quarter of Kansas City's 38-35 win over Philadelphia in the Super Bowl, Toney made two monumental plays. First, he caught a 5-yard TD pass that gave the Chiefs a 28-27 lead. Then, he returned a punt 65 yards to the Eagles 5 to set up another TD.

But Toney couldn't build off that success. He struggled last season and was inactive from Week 15 through the playoffs and sat out Kansas City's Super Bowl win over San Francisco. His most memorable play of the 2023 season was an offside penalty that negated a go-ahead TD that he scored off a lateral from Travis Kelce late in the fourth quarter of a loss to Buffalo.

The Chiefs added veteran wideout Marquise "Hollywood" Brown and drafted Xavier Worthy in the first round to go with Rashee Rice. They also have Skyy Moore, Mecole Hardman and Justin Watson.

James Bradberry

Cornerback James Bradberry was a second-team All-Pro in 2022, playing an important role in helping the Philadelphia Eagles reach the Super Bowl. He had a poor season last year and the Eagles moved him to safety after selecting cornerbacks Quinyon Mitchell and Cooper DeJean in the first two rounds of the NFL draft.

Bradberry has earned praise from defensive coordinator Vic Fangio during camp but he's still learning the position. The Eagles would take on about $15 million in dead cap money by releasing Bradberry but can spread that hit over two seasons with about $4.3 million counting against this season's cap and the rest in 2025.

Bailey Zappe

Quarterback Bailey Zappe has started eight games for the New England Patriots in his first two seasons, going 4-4. But Zappe's future is likely elsewhere. Drake Maye was drafted to be the quarterback of the future and Jacoby Brissett was signed to provide veteran leadership. The Patriots also drafted Joe Milton in the sixth round to add depth.

New England has probably held onto Zappe to try to trade him, though there won't be much of a market for him unless a team loses a backup.

La'el Collins

Right tackle La'el Collins hasn't played in an NFL game since 2022 because a knee injury forced him to miss last season. He finished the season on Dallas' practice squad, returning to the Cowboys after starting 71 games for them from 2015-21 and spending 2022 with Cincinnati.

Buffalo signed Collins to be a swing backup for tackles Dion Dawkins and Spencer Brown. But he has struggled in training camp and was moved to guard as a last option to earn a roster spot.

Mike Edwards

Safety Mike Edwards, who won Super Bowl rings with Tampa Bay and Kansas City, also is battling to make the Bills. He missed the spring with a shoulder injury and much of training camp with an ankle injury. Edwards was eased into practice this week and is fighting to make up for lost time. He does have $1.6 million guaranteed but the Bills would save $1.2 million on the salary cap if they cut him.

Jung jumps to July

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Jung Eun Teack has qualified for the season-ending Ace of Aces Tournament of the Saipan Golfers Association after topping the July tournament last July 28 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Teack actually finished second to Nick Sablan in the competition after both golfers fired identical net scores of 70 each. The latter reached the best score of the day following an excellent 36 in the front nine and a 41 in the back nine for a gross off 77 for the 7-handicapper.

Teack, meanwhile, mirrored Sablan's net 70 following a 44-42 and 86 slate for the 16-handicapper. Sablan, however, won via scorecard tiebreak, but since he already won last March, Teack was given the July win. Last month's winner, Freddie Cataluna, completed the Top 3 with his 71 net (36-38, 74).

Teack

With the win, Teack joins earlier 2024 Ace of the Month winners—Larry Deleon Guerrero (January), Alex Tudela (February), Das Krishnan (April), Joe I. Sablan (May), and Cataluna (June).

In the closest to the pin competition, Teack beat all comers in hole No. 4, while Sablan did the same in hole No. 6. Rick Kautz was without peer in hole No. 11. Ditto for Joe Sablan in hole No. 15. Cataluna then brought the lumber in holes No. 3 and 18 and won the longest drive on both contests.

The 2024 August Ace of the Month is scheduled this Sunday, Aug. 25, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course. Tee time is 9am and show time is 8:30am.

THE

From page 20

Jesus Tyquiengco and Damien Panglinan, but The Kliq's Jerald Cabrera put them on top in the third with a bases-clearing grand slam to make it 4-2.

Two more runs scored for The Kliq, and they were up, 6-2. Solo shots by Eli Aughenbaugh and Peter Tenorio gave The Kliq a bigger advantage, 8-2 by the fifth inning. Bat Dat Ass Up's two runs in the fifth got them within four, 4-8, but it didn't really matter after the explosion of runs in the last inning by The Kliq.

Aughenbaugh hit a three-run homer, followed by Josenio Alvarez and Pat Tenorio's solo jacks, while the rest of the lineup scored on back-to-back singles and doubles that brought Bat Dat Ass Up's pitcher—Lester Manglona—and his defense to their knees.

In other results, AB Team doused Red Torch, 10-9; Ur Balls beat Taotao Mona, 10-8; Brotherhood overpowered Team Luchan, 21-6; Blue Jays escaped Wazzup, 11-10; Pare Pack took down Aimeliik Bat Boys, 17-15; Just4Fun took down Saipal, 26-12; and Team Yayaya handed Homies their first loss, 29-19.

In the standings, only Brotherhood and Team Yayaya are still undefeated with four wins each. Homies and The Kliq are at 3-1; Wazzup, AB Team, Aimeliik Bat Boys, Bat Dat Ass Up, Ur Balls, Blue Jays, Pare Pack, and Just4Fun are 2-2 each; while Red Torch, Taotao Mona, and Saipal are 1-3 each, and Team Luchan have yet to win at four losses.

HARD

From page 20

matchup. The give and take of points wore on as both teams tried to gain the upper hand and keep it—which led to Hardt Eye remaining on top, 36-31, at the end of the third.

Despite a valiant effort by Blue Haus' Dane Tibayan, they came up short in the last minutes of the game as Navarro, Lucero, and Simon Romero put it away with crucial free throws, a 3-pointer, and accurate takes at the basket from within the paint.

Lucero was crowned the Player of the Game for his 14 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals, and 1 block. Navarro had a team-high 21 points, while Simon Romero put in 7 markers.

Blue Haus' Ibrahim Ibarola led the game with 23 points, while Dane Tibayan scored 13, and Yuan Sapo shot 5.

In the other game last Saturday, Win Pacific beat JTM Corp. by just 1 point, 45-44, while the other game last Friday was won by Blue Haus, 64-53, also over JTM Corp.

Hardt Eye leads with their two wins; Blue Haus and Win Pacific are next at 1-1; and JTM Corp. is at two losses.

Hardt Eye Clinic 51 – Navarro 21, Lucero 14, Romero 7, Pelisamen 4, Esdrelon 2, Que 2, Dilao 1.

Blue Haus 41 – I. Ibarola 23, Tibayan 13, Y. Sapo 5.

Scoring by quarters: 16-6, 22-17, 36-31, 51-41.

NMIBF

From page 20

Lumabi, and some basketball club representatives.

Lee, with the focus on grassroots, said that majority of NMIBF's upcoming events will be catered to the youth.

There is an upcoming 3x3 Youth Back to School Bash—U17 and U14 boys divisions—that will be held from Aug. 31 to Sep. 2 at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

In September, the CNMI is participating in the FIBA Oceania 3x3 Youth Athlete Development Program in Queensland, Australia.

Then, for the third year, "Her World Her Rules" program is returning, along with an-all female "I am HER" program.

NMIBF is also hosting its 4th 3x3 Hoop Fest and continuing its partnership with the Public School System for the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League.

The 2025 Pacific Mini Games will feature a 18-23 3x3 tourney in Koror, Palau, with tryouts and training for that currently ongoing at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

In December 2025, there is a FIBA U17 Oceania Tournament in Samoa that the CNMI might participate in.

Other leagues include the upcoming second Inter-Government/Business League—with dates to follow.

For the 2026 Micronesian Games in Nauru, there is a 3x3 tourney that the CNMI plans to participate in as well.

"We are intending to focus a lot more—our funding on youth development. With that being said, we're going to have more clinics. That's our goal. We don't know how it's going to materialize, but that's our goal," said Apatang. "We'll have more leagues to train our referees, because we do need more referees on the island. But it's really to develop our youth—because in two or three years, they will be ready to go off to the Micro Games and give a good representation of what we actually can accomplish."

Along with their future plans with the development of grassroots and the youth, NMIBF also presented their achievements since 2021—majority of which was focused on the youth.

In 2021, some of their achievements included their partnership with the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for a Summer Sports Program dubbed "Mini Basketball for Good;" IT&E became the title sponsor for the PSS/NMIBF Interscholastic Basketball League; conducted their first 3x3 Hoop Fest; and held a mini basketball outreach program called "BOLA."

In 2022, some of their achievements included the establishment of the NMI Junior National Basketball program; participated in the University of Guam Friendship Tournament; the men's team won bronze in the FIBA Micronesian Cup, while the women's won silver in Guam; held the 2nd Annual 3x3 Hoop Fest; held the first "Her World, Her Rules" program; and participated in the FIBA 15U Oceania Championships in Guam.

For the year 2023, they held the third "Mini Basketball for Good" summer program; continued the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League; held the second "Her World, Her Rules" program; held the third 3x3 Hoop Fest; and held a youth/women's league dubbed the Pokka Cup.

As for this year, they acquired a five-year contract for the Koblerville Gymnasium in which the NMIBF is holding their national team/3x3 practices; they participated in the 3x3 Asia Cup in Singapore; and competed in the 10th Micronesian Games in the Republic of Marshall Islands.

For more information on any of the upcoming tournaments or more information on the NMIBF, contact nmibasketballfederation@gmail.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	74	53	.583	–
Baltimore	74	54	.578	½
Boston	67	59	.532	6½
Tampa Bay	64	62	.508	9½
Toronto	59	68	.465	15
Central Division				
Cleveland	73	53	.579	–
Kansas City	71	56	.559	2½
Minnesota	71	56	.559	2½
Detroit	62	65	.488	11½
Chicago	31	97	.242	43
West Division				
Houston	68	58	.540	–
Seattle	64	64	.500	5
Texas	59	69	.461	10
Los Angeles	54	73	.425	14½
Oakland	54	73	.425	14½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
Philadelphia	74	52	.587	–
Atlanta	67	59	.532	7
New York	66	61	.520	8½
Washington	57	70	.449	17½
Miami	46	81	.362	28½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	73	53	.579	–
St. Louis	62	64	.492	11
Chicago	62	65	.488	11½
Cincinnati	62	65	.488	11½
Pittsburgh	59	67	.468	14
West Division				
Los Angeles	76	52	.594	–
Arizona	72	56	.563	4
San Diego	72	56	.563	4
San Francisco	65	64	.504	11½
Colorado	47	80	.370	28½

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Winker's pinch-hit homer in 9th gives Mets win over Orioles.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jung jumps to July tourney win.

PAGE 19

The Kliq bashes Bat Dat Ass Up, 22-5

LEIGH GASES

The Kliq right fielder James Benavente throws the ball to first baseman Ping Santos for an out during their game against Bat Dat Ass Up in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

LEIGH GASES

The Kliq's Sunjoon Tenorio is all smiles as he makes a run for home base during their game against Bat Dat Ass Up in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Kliq bashed Bat Dat Ass Up, 22-5, in the continuation of the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

The Kliq ended the game with a bang as they put up multiple runs in the last inning. They didn't give Bat Dat Ass Up a chance to come close as they scored 14 in their final at-bat at the top of the sixth.

Heading into the sixth, it was an 8-4 game in favor of the Kliq, which still gave a small margin for Bat Dat Ass Up to catch up. But after the slugfest that was the sixth inning for The Kliq, it was all over. Only one more run would score for Bat Dat Ass up for a 22-5 final.

Bat Dat Ass Up actually had an early lead, 2-0 after the first inning from runs scored by

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Hard Eye wins 2 in a row

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hardt Eye Clinic players pose for a group photo during the Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 Preseason Games last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Hardt Eye Clinic won two games in a row at the start of the regular season games of the Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 last Friday and Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In their game against Blue Haus last Saturday, they won, 51-41, for their second straight win after their win last Friday, 77-69, over Win Pacific.

Hardt Eye's combination of stellar defense, balanced scoring, and minimal mistakes on the court was a sharp contrast to Blue Haus' reliance on just three key players. From the opening tip off, Hardt Eye's momentum was used to their advantage after they won their game last Friday, and punished Blue Haus with a 16-6 first quarter.

Blue Haus were kept on their heels as Hardt Eye's team-oriented approach led to the contribution of the points from the majority of their players.

Hardt Eye's Jezpher Navarro and Christian Lucero led the team in points, but also had help from the rest of the starting five and their bench. However, despite a big lead heading into the second, Blue Haus bounced back and was within reach, 17-22, after halting Hardt Eye's offense and finally getting their shots in.

Blue Haus tried to keep pace with Hardt Eye throughout the game, which led to a close

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NMIBF: Focus on grassroots; more basketball leagues to come

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

In a general meeting by the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room, they discussed their focus on grassroots, future leagues and plans, their financial reports, updates on the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and Koblerville Gymnasium, and the current/2026 board of director elections.

The meeting was led by NMIBF president James Lee, and was attended by NMIBF vice president David Apatang Jr., secretary Michael Mercado, board member Marlene

See NMIBF on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Basketball Federation president James Lee, center, poses with vice president David Apatang Jr., second left, secretary Mike Mercado, far right, board member Marlene Lumabi, far left, and basketball club representatives during the NMIBF general meeting last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.